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ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE GEORGIA COURTS

Eleventh Annual Report on the Work of the Georgia Courts

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(July 1, 1983 – June 30, 1984)

January 1985

Judicial Council of Georgia
Administrative Office of the Courts
Suite 550
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Atlanta, Georgia 30334

The Eleventh Annual Report on the Work of the Georgia Courts is published by the Judicial Council of Georgia/Administrative Office of the Courts in compliance with Ga. Laws 1973, p. 288, and by Order of the Supreme Court of Georgia dated June 12, 1978.

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Foreword

As chairman of the eleventh Judicial Council, I am pleased to present the Eleventh Annual Report on the Work of the Georgia Courts, prepared by the Administrative Office of the Courts as required by Ga. Laws 1973, p. 288, and by Order of the Supreme Court of Georgia.

The 1983 constitution and the revised judicial article have provided an impetus for self-examination and improvements in the Georgia judicial system. The creation of the Governor's Judicial Process Review Commission is another vehicle by which significant change can be achieved. Upon reviewing this report, the reader will recognize the meaningful changes that are presently occurring in the courts.

Efforts by and on behalf of the judiciary during the past year culminated in a number of important activities. All trial court judges are now organized as formal councils to facilitate communication and the identification of long-range goals for each class of court. The drafting of uniform rules by these councils is a recent development with far-reaching impact on the efficient administration of justice in Georgia courts. Efforts presently are being made to make court rules uniform between all classes of trial courts, as well as within each class of court. With the cooperation of the five classes of trial courts, the Supreme Court has promulgated a civil case transfer rule to reduce delay in directing cases to the appropriate forum.

Upon recommendation of the Judicial Council, the General Assembly increased the number of superior court judgeships to 127 by approving measures that are effective July 1 of 1984 and 1985. A profile of the results of the state's annual trial court caseload study, upon which the recommendation was based, is included in this report. For the first time, results of a magistrate court caseload survey are given.

We invite the reader to look closely at the FY'84 activities of the Georgia judiciary and administrative agencies as reviewed in the following pages. We welcome questions and comments on the work of the courts as we strive to improve the administration of justice in Georgia.

Harold N. Hill, Jr.
Chairman

Judicial Council of Georgia

January 1985

Chief Justice Harold N. Hill, Jr.
Chairman
Supreme Court
Atlanta

Justice Thomas O. Marshall
Vice chairman
Supreme Court
Atlanta

Judge Henry A. Baker
President-elect
Council of Probate Court Judges
Covington

Chief Judge Harold R. Banke
Court of Appeals
Atlanta

Judge Hal Bell
Administrative Judge
Third District
Macon

Judge A. W. Birdsong, Jr.
Court of Appeals
Atlanta

Judge A. Wallace Cato
President
Council of Superior Court Judges
Bainbridge

Judge Virgil Costley, Jr.
President
Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Covington

Judge George W. Eisel, III
President
Council of Magistrate Court Judges
Sparta

Judge George R. Ellis, Jr.
President
Council of State Court Judges
Americus

Judge William M. Fleming, Jr.
Administrative Judge
Tenth District
Augusta

Judge George W. Harris
President-elect
Council of Magistrate Court Judges
Fort Valley

Judge George A. Horkan, Jr.
Administrative Judge
Moultrie

Judge John S. Langford
Administrative Judge
Fifth District
Atlanta

Judge R. Hugh Lawson, Jr.
President-elect
Council of Superior Court Judges
Hawkinsville

Judge Walter C. McMillan, Jr.
Administrative Judge
Eighth District
Sandersville

Judge Charles A. Pannell, Jr.
Administrative Judge
Ninth District
Dalton

Judge R. Edward Reddick, Jr.
President-elect
Council of State Court Judges
Springfield

Judge J. Ben Spear, Jr.
President
Council of Probate Court Judges
Forsyth

Judge A. Blenn Taylor, Jr.
Administrative Judge
First District
Brunswick

Judge Curtis V. Tillman
Administrative Judge
Fourth District
Decatur

Judge David J. Turner, Jr.
President-elect
Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Manchester

Judge Andrew J. Whalen, Jr.
Administrative Judge
Sixth District
Griffin

Judge Jere F. White
Administrative Judge
Seventh District
Cartersville

The Courts In Fiscal Year 1984

Fiscal year 1984 proved to be a period of change much of which emanated from within the state's judicial system itself. As the revised judicial article took effect, judges, court personnel and administrative agencies mobilized with the objective of providing better services for their constituents. Rules and standards effecting court management were issued, and preliminary and review work on uniform court rules was undertaken.

Along with the reorganization of the Judicial Council of Georgia in August 1983, councils of trial court judges not formerly constituted as such became organized. The state and probate court judges' councils were created from the existing State Trial Judges and Solicitors Association and the Probate Court Judges Association. The magistrate court judges' council was formed from the Georgia Courts of Limited Jurisdiction, Inc., upon the adoption of a new constitution and by-laws. The Council of Superior Court Judges amended its by-laws to include the 10 district administrative judges on its executive committee and appointed standing committees to address most of the basic areas of continuing concern to trial judges. The Council of Juvenile Court Judges continued to operate as a state agency with a central office staff. During the year, the respective councils made long-range plans concerning specific matters of interest and encouraged coordination to resolve immediate conflicts and improve court operations.

Pursuant to its rule-making authority granted by the state constitution, the Supreme Court promulgated rules for senior judge service and for the transfer of civil cases. The civil case transfer rule applies to all trial courts in which a case is pending when the court is alleged to lack jurisdiction or venue, or both. Standards for microfilming court records adopted by the State Records Committee and the Administrative Office of the Courts late in 1983 were also made applicable to all trial courts, as well as the two state appellate courts.

As mandated by the 1983 judicial article, the process of drafting uniform court rules was started by each of the trial court judges' councils. By the end of the fiscal year, the superior court rules were virtually complete. These rules had been reviewed by the Supreme Court and returned to the superior court judges for final approval. All other judges' groups studied the superior court rules to ensure vertical uniformity in the rule-making process. Superior court clerks drafted record-keeping rules which were to be incorporated as a section in the body of superior court rules.

At its 1984 session, the Georgia legislature acted to further promote efficiences in the court system. The General Assembly approved a measure to establish the Governor's Judicial Process Review Commission to study the coordination, design and functions of courts, agencies and programs currently delivering judicial services. Created just over 10 years after the former Governor's Commission on Judicial Processes, the Judicial Process Review Commission is composed of legislative, executive and judicial appointees, the majority of which are attorneys. Among its varied tasks, the Commission is charged by the legislature with investigating the feasibility of establishing a superior court caseload reporting system and a method of random superior court case assignment in multi-judge circuits. In a related measure, the General Assembly created the Children and Youth Study Committee for the purpose of making recommendations concerning the state's juvenile justice system, child abuse, child neglect and problems of school-aged children.

The 1984 General Assembly also passed legislation that produced

changes in the number of superior court judgeships and limited jurisdiction courts. New judgeships were approved for the Atlanta, Clayton, Cobb and Houston judicial circuits. The Cobb judgeship took effect immediately following the end of the fiscal year, while terms for the other three superior court judgeships will start July 1, 1985. The legislature established new state courts with part-time judgeships for both Bacon and Jeff Davis counties, and it abolished the State Court of Johnson County. Also abolished were the Municipal Court of Savannah, cases from which will thereafter be heard by the Chatham County magistrate court, and the office of magistrate of the State Court of Cobb County, which was replaced with a second state court division.

Other court-related issues addressed by the legislature included jury-service, judicial salaries and appeals procedures. All occupational and age category exemptions from civil and criminal jury duty were eliminated, thereby greatly increasing both the size and representativeness of the jury pool. A person summoned for jury duty may now postpone the time of service only with the permission of the judge of the summoning court or of another person appointed to excuse jurors. Six bills affecting judicial and court personnel compensation were adopted, as Supreme Court justices, judges of the Court of Appeals and superior courts and district attorneys all received raises in base pay. Changes in statutory compensation provisions pertaining to superior court clerks and probate court judges who serve in an additional capacity were passed. New procedures for applications for discretionary appeals and modifications of traffic law sentences also became law.

State-funded courts and agencies operated under a judicial branch budget of $30,010,038 in fiscal year 1984, representing .76 percent of the total state appropriations for the year. Of the total budget, a net increase of $12,671 was the result of supplemental budget measures approved at the 1984 legislative session.

The judicial branch adopted a revised budget structure for fiscal year 1985, reducing the number of budget units from 10 to 7 and readjusting individual units within categories. (The new structure appears in the table on page 5.) The total judicial branch appropriation for FY 1985 amounted to $33,495,889 or .78 percent of the total state budget.

During the past year, judicial agencies and organizations worked to enhance coordination and revise existing procedures. At the request of the State-Federal Judicial Council, the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education sponsored a seminar on writs of habeas corpus and post-conviction relief for federal and state appellate and trial court judges to review habeas corpus proceedings and plan ways to resolve conflicts between the two court systems. The state Supreme Court reactivated the Georgia Indigent Defense Council to draft standards concerning the representation of indigent defendants. Committees of superior court judges completed work on the new civil benchbook and a revised edition of the suggested pattern jury instructions for civil cases. Near year-end, judicial secretaries formed the Georgia Association of Superior Court Secretaries to promote interests of and communication among its members. In addition, the Council of Superior Court Judges requested and received funding to open a central office and hire an administrator.

Five-Year Comparison for Judicial Budget (1981-1985)

Fiscal Year	Total State Appropriation	Increase	Judicial Appropriation	Increase	Percent of State Budget
1981	$3,217,056,705	$366,903,998	$20,554,407	$2,679,215	0.64%
1982	3,522,966,448	305,909,743	24,305,842	3,751,435	0.69%
1983	3,685,528,666	162,562,218	26,590,315	2,284,473	0.72%
1984	3,960,829,559	275,300,893	30,010,038	3,419,723	0.76%
1985	4,302,000,000	341,170,441	33,495,889	3,485,851	0.78%

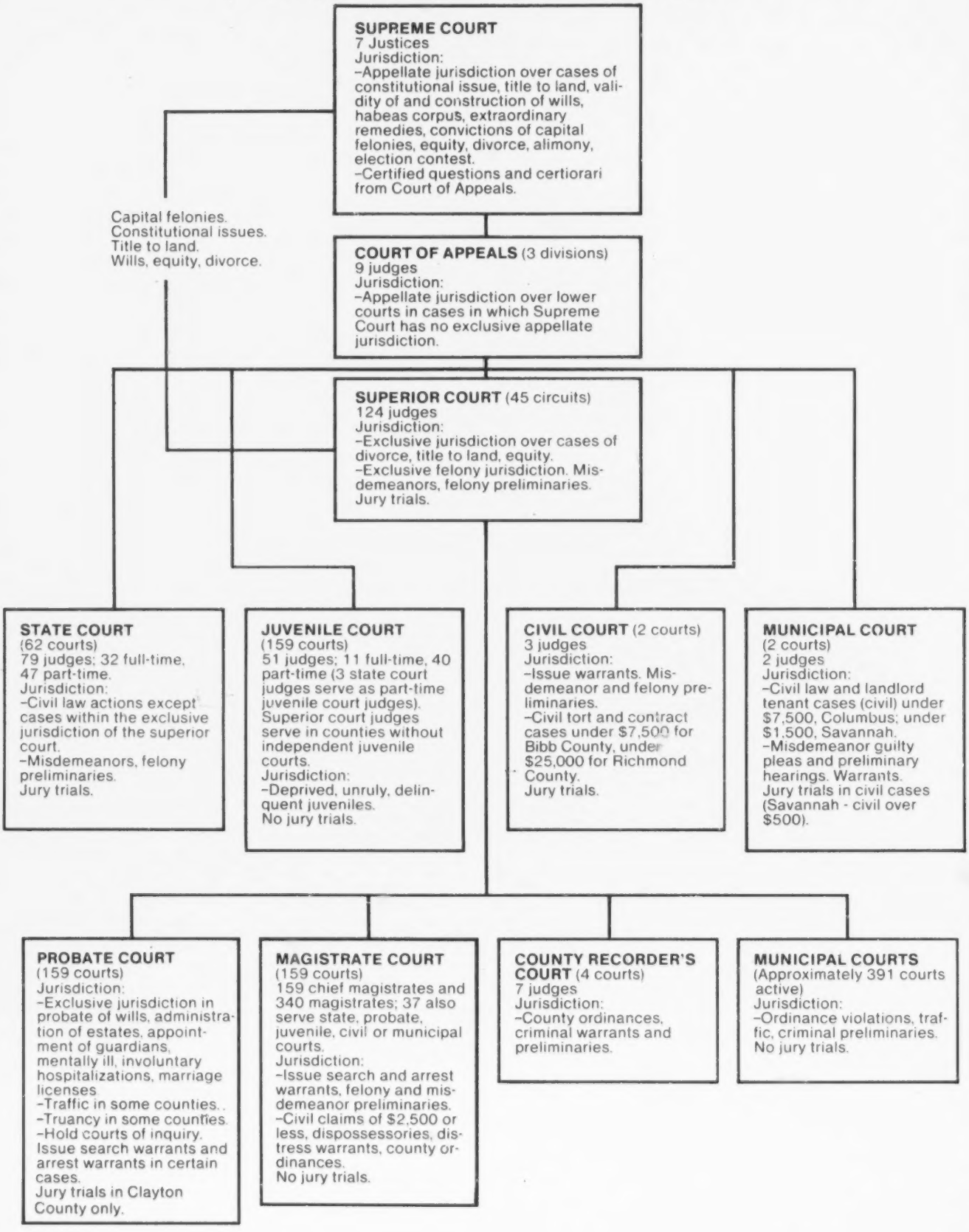
State Appropriations for the Judicial Branch
Fiscal Years 1983, 1984 and 1985

Court or Agency	FY 1983 Amended Appropriation	FY 1984 Amended Appropriation	Percent Change FY83-84	FY 1985 General Appropriation	Percent Change FY84-85
Supreme Court (Total)	$2,629,294	$2,976,368	13.2	$3,137,274	5.4
Operations	2,413,294	2,783,268	15.3	2,893,774	4.0
Appellate Court Reports	216,000	193,100	-10.6	195,400	1.2
Indigent Defense Council	0	0	0	5,100	—
Uniform Rules	0	0	0	43,000	—
Court of Appeals	2,671,951	3,104,662	16.2	3,346,132	7.8
Superior Courts (Total)	20,327,711	23,017,170	13.2	25,981,249	12.9
Operations	19,261,330	21,903,474	13.7	24,773,194	13.1
Council of Superior Court Judges	0	0	0	40,000	—
Judicial Administrative Districts	537,658	523,028	-2.7	551,398	5.4
Prosecuting Attorneys' Council	446,539	488,744	9.5	504,236	3.2
Sentence Review Panel	82,184	101,924	24.0	112,421	10.3
Juvenile Courts (Total)	104,384	110,595	6.0	116,930	5.7
Operations	0	0	0	0	
Council of Juvenile Court Judges	104,384	110,595	6.0	116,930	5.7
Institute of Continuing Judicial Education (Total)	241,523	245,060	1.5	263,924	7.7
Operations	227,553	230,000	1.1	247,659	7.7
Magistrate Courts Training Council	13,970	15,060	7.8	16,265	8.0
Judicial Council (Total)	569,664	505,712	-11.2	549,212	8.6
Operations	494,178	419,917	-15.0	465,150	10.8
Board of Court Reporting	15,486	16,870	8.9	19,062	13.0
Case Counting	60,000	68,925	14.9	65,000	-5.7
Judicial Qualifications Commission	45,788	50,471	10.2	101,168	100.4
Judicial Branch Total	$26,590,315	$30,010,038	12.9	$33,495,889	11.6

JUDICIAL BRANCH BUDGET UNITS: FY84 Funds Available and Expenditures

	Supreme Court	Court of Appeals	Superior Courts	Juvenile Courts	Institute of Continuing Judicial Education	Judicial Council	Judicial Qualifications Commission	Total
FUNDS AVAILABLE								
General Appropriations	$2,973,534	$3,068,416	$23,050,168	$109,761	$245,060	$499,957	$50,471	$29,997,367
Supplemental Appropriations	2,834	36,246	(32,998)	834	0	5,755	0	12,671
Governor's Emergency Funds	10,000	0	0	1,100	0	5,000	0	16,100
Total State Funds	2,986,368	3,104,662	23,017,170	111,695	245,060	510,712	50,471	30,026,138
Federal Funds	0	0	89,313	293,126	0	0	0	906,049
Other Funds	186,008	46,661	616,257	0	33,429	23,694	0	906,049
Total Available Funds	**$3,172,376**	**$3,151,323**	**$23,722,740**	**$404,821**	**$278,489**	**$534,406**	**$50,471**	**$31,314,626**
EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services	$2,090,384	$2,697,805	$21,679,159	$108,944	$ 0	$368,786	$ 0	$26,945,078
Regular operating Expenses	235,097	79,673	462,280	14,648	34,327	24,519	3,514	854,058
Travel	34,007	23,759	386,683	3,252	804	9,407	0	457,912
Publications & Printing	185,900	3,329	23,617	2,641	30,678	27,560	4,957	278,682
Equipment Purchases	106,590	140,329	25,092	103	625	838	270	273,847
Computer Charges	41,037	0	2,459	0	0	0	0	43,496
Real Estate Rentals	225,978	142,587	52,616	8,224	0	32,870	1,470	463,745
Telecommunications	37,978	36,615	28,666	3,545	69	11,808	1,317	119,998
Per Diem, Fees & Contracts	147,788	25,176	207,814	263,464	208,369	58,618	30,252	941,481
Total Expenditures	**$3,104,759**	**$3,149,273**	**$22,868,386**	**$404,821**	**$274,872**	**$534,406**	**$41,780**	**$30,378,297**

Georgia Court System: November 1, 1984


SUPREME COURT
7 Justices
Jurisdiction:
-Appellate jurisdiction over cases of constitutional issue, title to land, validity of and construction of wills, habeas corpus, extraordinary remedies, convictions of capital felonies, equity, divorce, alimony, election contest.
-Certified questions and certiorari from Court of Appeals.
Capital felonies.
Constitutional issues.
Title to land.
Wills, equity, divorce.
COURT OF APPEALS (3 divisions)
9 judges
Jurisdiction:
-Appellate jurisdiction over lower courts in cases in which Supreme Court has no exclusive appellate jurisdiction.
SUPERIOR COURT (45 circuits)
124 judges
Jurisdiction:
-Exclusive jurisdiction over cases of divorce, title to land, equity.
-Exclusive felony jurisdiction. Misdemeanors, felony preliminaries.
Jury trials.
STATE COURT
(62 courts)
79 judges; 32 full-time, 47 part-time.
Jurisdiction:
-Civil law actions except cases within the exclusive jurisdiction of the superior court.
-Misdemeanors, felony preliminaries.
Jury trials.
JUVENILE COURT
(159 courts)
51 judges; 11 full-time, 40 part-time (3 state court judges serve as part-time juvenile court judges). Superior court judges serve in counties without independent juvenile courts.
Jurisdiction:
-Deprived, unruly, delinquent juveniles.
No jury trials.
CIVIL COURT (2 courts)
3 judges
Jurisdiction:
-Issue warrants. Misdemeanor and felony preliminaries.
-Civil tort and contract cases under $7,500 for Bibb County, under $25,000 for Richmond County.
Jury trials.
MUNICIPAL COURT
(2 courts)
2 judges
Jurisdiction:
-Civil law and landlord tenant cases (civil) under $7,500, Columbus; under $1,500, Savannah.
-Misdemeanor guilty pleas and preliminary hearings. Warrants.
Jury trials in civil cases (Savannah - civil over $500).
PROBATE COURT
(159 courts)
Jurisdiction:
-Exclusive jurisdiction in probate of wills, administration of estates, appointment of guardians, mentally ill, involuntary hospitalizations, marriage licenses
-Traffic in some counties.
-Truancy in some counties.
-Hold courts of inquiry.
Issue search warrants and arrest warrants in certain cases.
Jury trials in Clayton County only.
MAGISTRATE COURT
(159 courts)
159 chief magistrates and 340 magistrates; 37 also serve state, probate, juvenile, civil or municipal courts.
Jurisdiction:
-Issue search and arrest warrants, felony and misdemeanor preliminaries.
-Civil claims of $2,500 or less, dispossessories, distress warrants, county ordinances.
No jury trials.
COUNTY RECORDER'S COURT (4 courts)
7 judges
Jurisdiction:
-County ordinances, criminal warrants and preliminaries.
MUNICIPAL COURTS
(Approximately 391 courts active)
Jurisdiction:
-Ordinance violations, traffic, criminal preliminaries.
No jury trials.

Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is Georgia's highest court of review, exercising exclusive appellate jurisdiction over cases involving the construction of the state or federal constitution or of a treaty, all cases in which the constitutionality of a law or ordinance has been drawn into question and all cases of election contest.

The Supreme Court retains general appellate jurisdiction in cases involving 1) title to land, 2) equity, 3) wills, 4) habeas corpus, 5) extraordinary remedies, 6) divorce and alimony, 7) questions certified by the Court of Appeals, and 8) the conviction of a capital felony. It also may review by certiorari Court of Appeals cases deemed to have great public import and is authorized to answer questions of law from any state or federal appellate court. The court also presides over cases involving discipline of attorneys and judges and admissions to the State Bar of Georgia.

The seven justices of the Supreme Court are elected to six-year terms in statewide, nonpartisan elections. Vacancies on the court are filled by appointment of the governor.

A chief justice and a presiding justice are elected by the court. The chief justice serves as the administrative head of the court and presides at oral arguments and court conferences. The presiding justice acts in the place of the chief justice when necessary and performs other duties as well.

In hearing cases *en banc* (by the full court), the Supreme Court as a rule holds court in Atlanta. On occasion, it may hold sessions in other locations around the state, such as at an accredited law school in order to demonstrate its procedures to law students. During FY 1984, the court held sessions outside Atlanta on two occasions, once in Athens and once in Macon. The court has three terms of court each year, beginning in September, January and April. The court hears no oral arguments in August or December.

A comparison of the Supreme Court's caseload for administrative court years 1984 and 1983 (September 1-August 31) is presented at left.

Supreme Court Caseload: 1984 and 1983

Filed	1984	1983
Direct Appeals (Final)	562	576
Petitions for Certiorari	513	555
Original Petitions/Motions	29	32
Habeas Corpus Applications	161	
Applications for Discretionary Appeal	184	371
Applications for Interlocutory Appeal	54	
Summary Judgment Granted	14	1
Certified Questions	12	10
Attorney/Judge Discipline, Bar Admissions	75	44
TOTAL	1,604	1,589

Disposed	1,984	1,983
Opinions Written	420	408
Decided Without Opinion (Rule 59)	108	131
Certiorari	406	509
Granted	74	88
Denied	332	421
Habeas Corpus Applications	148	99
Granted	14	8
Denied	134	91
Interlocutory Appeals	46	33
Granted	17	13
Denied	115	96
Discretionary Appeals	166	137
Granted	51	41
Denied	115	96
Original Petitions/Motions	11	30
Granted	2	–
Denied	9	–
Disciplinary/Bar Admissions (by order)	45	43
Other	199	220
Transferred to Court of Appeals by order	32	
Dismissed/Remanded by order	125	220
Withdrawn	42	
TOTAL	1,549	1,610

Court of Appeals

The Court of Appeals is authorized to exercise appellate and certiorari jurisdiction in all cases where exclusive jurisdiction is not reserved to the Supreme Court or conferred on other courts. Such cases include civil claims for damages, cases involving worker compensation and insurance claims and criminal cases other than capital felonies. The court may also certify questions to the Supreme Court for instruction.

The Court of Appeals consists of nine judges divided into three panels of three judges each. Under the court's rules, the judges elect a chief judge who then appoints judges to preside over each of the three divisions. Any decision rendered by a division is final unless a single judge dissents, whereupon the case is considered by all nine judges. In the instance of an equal division of judges hearing a case in full, the case is transferred to the Supreme Court.

Judges of the Court of Appeals are elected in statewide, nonpartisan elections. A vacancy in any judgeship is filled by gubernatorial appointment.

The Court of Appeals sits exclusively in Atlanta and holds three terms of court per year, beginning in September, January and April.

Georgia Judicial Administrative Districts

Superior Courts

The superior court is Georgia's court of general jurisdiction. Superior courts have exclusive jurisdiction over trials in felony cases (except in the case of juvenile offenders) and in cases involving divorce, equity and questions of land title. With the exception of certain probate and juvenile matters, the superior courts exercise concurrent jurisdiction over other cases with the limited jurisdiction courts located in the same county. The superior courts are authorized to correct errors made by lower courts by issuing writs of certiorari, and for some lower courts, the right to direct review by the superior court applies.

Located in each of the state's 159 counties, superior courts are organized by judicial circuits, or groups of counties. Circuits vary in size and population, as well as in the number of judges serving them. From one to eight counties comprise the circuits, with the single-county circuits generally located in or near the several large metropolitan areas of the state. The number of superior court judges per circuit ranges from one judge in each of four circuits to eleven judges in the Atlanta Judicial Circuit. As of June 30, 1984, there were 123 judges in the state's 45 circuits, with an additional judge to take office on July 1, 1984.

For the purpose of administration, the judicial circuits are organized into 10 judicial administrative districts whose boundaries correspond roughly to those of Georgia's U.S. congressional districts. The superior court judges of each district elect one among their number to serve as administrative judge. The administrative judges are authorized by statute to utilize caseload and other information for management purposes and to assign superior court judges, with their approval, to other counties or circuits as needed.

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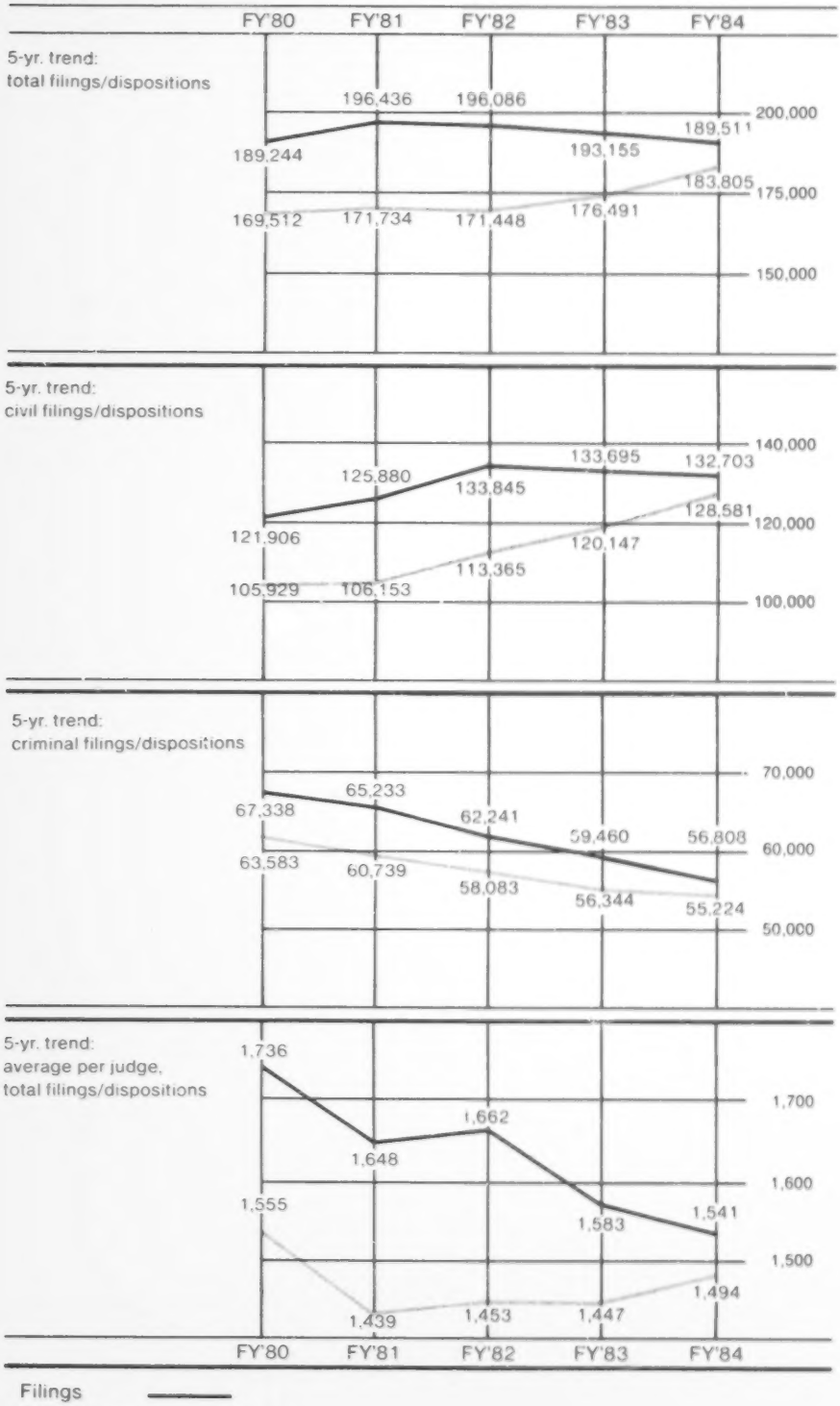
Superior Courts



All superior court judges are elected in nonpartisan elections by the voters of each circuit to terms of four years. Certain vacancies and new judgeships may be filled by gubernatorial appointment.

Caseload data for the superior courts is presented at left. The graphs compare total, civil, criminal and per judge filings and dispositions for fiscal years 1980-1984. The table on pages 10 and 11 presents FY'84 total superior court caseload by circuit and case type.

FY 1984 Superior Court Caseload (Docket entries)

	Total Criminal		Felony		Misdemeanor		Traffic	
Circuit	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
Alapaha	3,257	2,999	666	517	981	944	1,610	1,538
Alcovy	1,250	1,404	397	488	741	817	112	99
Appalachian	860	812	200	164	367	326	293	322
Atlanta	5,266	4,999	5,215	4,976	51	23	0	0
Atlantic	785	529	592	360	64	54	129	115
Augusta	1,014	1,174	859	952	120	164	35	58
Blue Ridge	480	477	457	458	22	18	1	1
Brunswick	1,734	1,452	663	476	575	511	496	465
Chattahoochee	1,693	1,912	1,150	1,079	383	395	160	438
Cherokee	1,351	1,486	822	801	443	569	86	116
Clayton	988	1,144	940	1,092	36	41	12	11
Cobb	1,813	2,386	1,813	2,386	0	0	0	0
Conasauga	1,161	1,094	424	410	521	475	236	209
Cordele	1,046	1,036	399	418	621	599	26	19
Coweta	807	815	614	622	163	161	30	32
Dougherty	751	677	751	677	0	0	0	0
Douglas	1,091	850	300	276	466	361	325	213
Dublin	1,129	878	270	261	731	543	128	74
Eastern	1,433	1,577	1,290	1,478	140	95	3	4
Flint	889	859	478	444	349	369	62	46
Griffin	1,439	1,269	703	620	499	424	237	225
Gwinnett	740	710	697	661	33	34	10	15
Houston	458	456	406	406	52	50	0	0
Lookout Mountain	2,068	1,598	917	701	843	695	308	202
Macon	1,495	1,650	1,009	1,105	437	497	49	48
Middle	590	534	547	495	37	38	6	1
Mountain	613	510	308	277	215	178	90	55
Northeastern	1,596	1,585	549	555	464	425	583	605
Northern	1,061	1,116	487	503	554	592	20	21
Ocmulgee	2,231	1,821	1,252	1,081	913	693	66	47
Oconee	996	805	481	375	449	382	66	48
Ogeechee	452	407	347	330	70	58	35	19
Pataula	1,036	1,177	403	472	377	461	256	244
Piedmont	1,188	1,151	336	302	312	306	540	543
Rockdale	570	530	251	254	222	202	97	74
Rome	1,527	1,451	438	411	974	976	115	64
South Georgia	909	852	789	670	99	160	21	22
Southern	1,157	1,169	973	1,009	182	158	2	2
Southwestern	511	534	311	330	190	191	10	13
Stone Mountain	2,107	2,058	2,107	2,057	0	1	0	0
Tallapoosa	1,065	944	342	312	444	392	279	240
Tifton	585	856	369	573	211	272	5	11
Toombs	2,171	2,209	275	265	814	924	1,082	1,020
Waycross	866	694	609	470	229	207	28	17
Western	559	578	519	539	34	33	6	6
TOTAL	56,808	55,224	33,725	33,108	15,428	14,814	7,655	7,302
AVERAGE PER JUDGE*	462	449	274	269	125	120	62	59

*Based on 123 superior court judges

FY 1984 Superior Court Caseload (Docket Entries)

Total Civil		General Civil		Domestic Relations		Independent Motions		Total Caseload		Total Open
Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Caseload
1,494	1,491	467	407	792	713	235	371	4,751	4,490	2,636
2,074	1,728	611	478	894	752	569	498	3,324	3,132	3,205
839	785	298	298	369	358	172	129	1,699	1,597	2,086
12,301	13,105	3,596	4,518	6,087	5,693	2,618	2,894	17,567	18,104	12,574
2,571	2,480	809	778	1,387	1,330	375	372	3,356	3,009	1,659
5,322	4,446	1,033	690	3,118	2,745	1,171	1,011	6,336	5,620	7,284
1,588	1,414	286	268	1,090	948	212	198	2,068	1,891	1,618
3,443	3,428	971	1,006	2,036	2,009	436	413	5,177	4,880	3,999
4,876	5,520	994	1,167	3,390	3,866	492	487	6,569	7,432	6,160
2,610	2,403	752	729	1,002	967	856	707	3,961	3,889	3,883
2,965	2,788	628	596	2,112	1,959	225	233	3,953	3,932	2,729
7,434	7,103	1,119	1,056	5,218	4,939	1,097	1,108	9,247	9,489	7,199
2,877	2,974	650	741	1,588	1,638	639	595	4,058	4,068	2,942
1,578	1,535	549	483	686	740	343	312	2,624	2,571	1,340
4,005	3,816	992	1,093	2,186	2,057	827	666	4,812	4,631	4,286
2,046	2,401	483	672	1,366	1,428	197	301	2,797	3,078	1,626
1,954	2,611	932	1,299	663	733	359	579	3,045	3,461	3,179
1,566	1,280	617	566	591	452	358	262	2,695	2,158	3,098
3,392	2,489	888	464	1,827	1,665	677	360	4,825	4,066	5,140
2,077	1,969	843	971	758	745	476	253	2,966	2,628	2,719
2,813	2,859	790	909	1,347	1,355	676	595	4,252	4,128	2,859
3,958	4,172	933	932	2,300	2,460	725	780	4,698	4,882	2,061
1,699	1,510	260	253	1,077	957	362	300	2,157	1,966	2,271
3,311	3,008	787	751	1,819	1,732	705	525	5,379	4,606	3,500
4,026	4,415	943	898	2,456	2,921	627	596	5,521	6,065	3,048
2,053	1,717	681	603	981	805	391	309	2,643	2,251	2,421
1,774	1,642	412	393	1,033	982	329	267	2,387	2,152	1,484
2,439	2,367	628	620	1,206	1,159	605	588	4,035	3,952	1,690
1,710	1,541	497	451	786	689	427	401	2,771	2,657	2,739
3,893	2,763	1,758	1,306	1,225	904	910	553	6,124	4,584	5,231
1,627	1,154	532	431	620	452	475	271	2,623	1,959	1,711
1,993	2,224	609	757	1,006	1,089	378	378	2,445	2,631	1,228
1,628	1,544	517	442	931	785	180	317	2,664	2,721	1,724
1,691	1,481	423	423	758	664	510	394	2,879	2,632	2,272
1,101	741	400	241	411	370	290	130	1,671	1,271	2,828
2,562	2,254	714	630	1,018	960	830	664	4,089	3,705	3,977
1,982	1,936	489	487	1,241	905	252	544	2,891	2,788	1,553
3,319	3,316	986	728	1,901	1,663	432	925	4,476	4,485	3,436
1,869	1,996	744	790	862	956	263	250	2,380	2,530	1,733
9,466	9,883	1,994	2,094	5,568	5,938	1,904	1,851	11,573	11,941	10,115
2,604	2,632	956	1,077	1,033	940	615	615	3,669	3,576	3,280
2,223	2,335	660	580	1,125	1,070	438	685	2,808	3,191	1,989
1,018	961	279	235	479	488	260	238	3,189	3,170	1,583
2,724	2,380	845	689	1,424	1,312	455	379	3,590	3,074	2,421
1,847	1,787	657	629	895	877	295	281	2,406	2,365	1,372
132,703	128,581	36,072	35,665	70,874	68,281	25,757	24,635	189,511	183,805	148,613
1,079	1,045	293	290	576	555	209	200	1,541	1,494	1,208

State Courts

First established in 1970 as a general class of limited jurisdiction courts from a combination of existing, county-funded courts, state courts were granted uniform jurisdiction by the 1983 constitution effective with the 1984 fiscal year. All state courts now exercise jurisdiction over trials of nonfelony criminal cases and retain civil jurisdiction over the trial of all general civil actions regardless of the amount claimed, unless exclusive jurisdiction is vested in the superior courts.

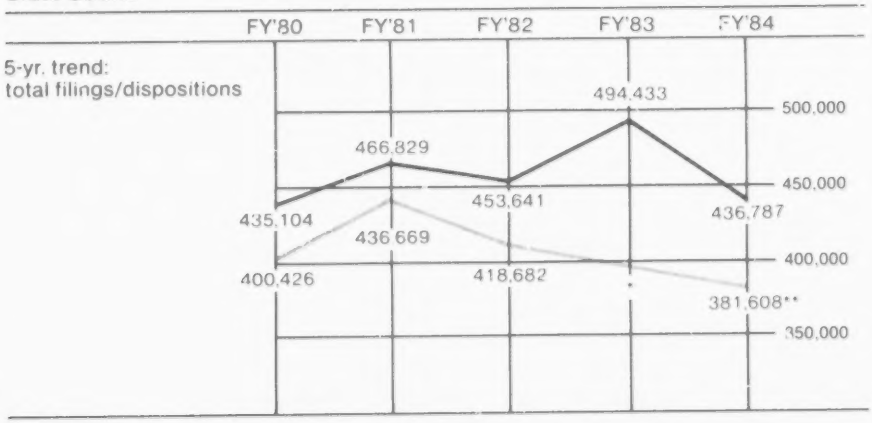
Uniform state court jurisdiction also includes hearing applications for and issuing search and arrest warrants, holding courts of inquiry and punishing contempts by fine ($500 or less) and/or imprisonment (20 days or less). Additionally, state courts have been granted appellate jurisdiction by the constitution to review decisions of lower courts as may later be provided by law.

On June 30, 1984, 62 state courts were operational in 63 counties. (The state's only multi-county state court serves both Cherokee and Forsyth counties.) Of the 79 judges presiding, 32 were full-time state court judges, while 47 served part-time. Part-time judges are authorized to practice law in courts other than their own.

Beginning with fiscal year 1984, state court judges are elected in nonpartisan elections by the voters of the respective counties and serve terms of four years. Vacancies and new judgeships may be filled by appointment of the governor in certain instances.

Below is a comparison of total state court caseload for fiscal years 1980-1984. FY'84 filings and dispositions by county are listed in the following table.

State Courts



*Disposition data unavailable for FY'83.

**Civil disposition data unavailable for Fulton County.

Filings ——

Dispositions ——

FY 1984 State Court Caseload (Docket entries)

County	Misdemeanor		Traffic		General Civil		Independent Motions		Total Caseload	
	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
Appling	484	475	1,514	1,505	19	17	14	9	2,031	2,006
Baldwin	1,756	1,756	1,620	1,620	0	0	0	0	3,376	3,376
Bibb	3,029	3,403	2,336	2,164	658	599	151	130	6,174	6,296
Bryan	161	159	324	320	42	31	7	6	534	516
Bulloch	2	15	3,060	2,561	51	57	27	10	3,140	2,643
Burke	404	404	2,204	2,204	65	64	75	67	2,748	2,739
Candler	132	104	2,014	1,968	0	0	17	13	2,163	2,085
Carroll	1,296	1,004	4,632	3,883	520	335	136	39	6,584	5,261
Chatham	1,238	1,554	1,204	1,138	2,841	3,214	1,274	1,041	6,557	6,947
Chattooga	608	446	2,025	1,697	21	4	1	1	2,655	2,148
Cherokee	1,229	1,080	5,899	5,534	562	660	100	113	7,790	7,387
Clarke	255	232	937	892	149	192	105	105	1,446	1,421
Clayton	3,960	3,029	14,891	14,521	2,472	2,729	2,865	1,890	24,188	22,169
Clinch	312	314	1,021	1,022	221	202	0	0	1,554	1,538
Cobb	5,590	5,929	32,645	28,245	6,071	6,256	8,664	7,626	52,979	48,056
Coffee	958	647	2,549	2,085	64	50	24	8	3,595	2,790
Colquitt	824	751	1,658	1,586	53	38	25	81	2,560	2,456
Coweta	1,163	1,297	5,210	4,818	229	176	63	23	6,665	6,314
Decatur	1,003	657	1,966	1,940	42	30	29	59	3,040	2,686
DeKalb	4,893	4,903	4,158	4,558	10,188	9,796	25,566	9,299	44,805	28,556
Dougherty	3,974	3,936	5,951	6,341	1,173	1,017	2,930	4,148	14,028	15,442
Early	376	378	807	881	31	42	4	9	1,218	1,310
Effingham	234	170	1,110	1,106	138	106	11	2	1,493	1,384
Elbert	440	352	1,092	1,033	21	18	0	0	1,553	1,403
Emanuel	816	527	3,921	3,591	84	66	48	38	4,869	4,222
Evans	224	222	645	659	15	7	17	3	901	891
Forsyth	1,043	881	2,791	2,696	319	324	79	91	4,232	3,992
Fulton	10,258	9,406	25,870	24,845	38,860*	50,594*	54,541*	107,062*	129,529*	191,907*
Glynn	1,006	676	6,822	5,315	1,085	1,058	1,102	1,089	10,115	8,138
Grady	635	391	1,484	1,497	17	13	7	30	2,143	1,931
Gwinnett	2,957	2,649	1,427	647	2,612	3,156	973	1,388	7,969	7,840
Habersham	629	588	843	833	69	72	21	39	1,562	1,532
Hall	2,956	2,544	6,952	6,436	325	489	147	402	10,380	9,871
Houston	2,812	1,698	5,990	4,458	991	858	480	373	10,273	7,387
Jackson	412	348	6,323	5,753	17	38	29	32	6,781	6,171
Jefferson	551	551	1,898	1,898	1	1	68	56	2,518	2,506
Jenkins	159	141	535	549	72	79	4	1	770	770
Liberty	1,090	1,066	5,111	5,161	79	36	18	5	6,298	6,268
Long	17	17	1,910	914	6	9	2	3	1,935	943
Lowndes	2,416	2,378	12,530	12,009	208	167	63	169	15,217	14,723
Macon	203	187	607	563	25	32	20	6	855	788
Miller	115	112	972	971	5	5	8	13	1,100	1,101
Mitchell	506	493	1,299	1,256	9	6	5	16	1,819	1,771
Muscogee	3,447	2,242	4,080	2,634	285	279	17	7	7,829	5,162
Pierce	260	275	1,025	874	22	32	9	7	1,316	1,188

FY 1984 State Court Caseload (Docket entries)

County	Misdemeanor		Traffic		General Civil		Independent Motions		Total Caseload	
	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
Putnam	308	308	549	549	0	0	0	0	857	857
Richmond	5,912	5,353	15,685	14,376	332	227	193	124	22,122	20,080
Screven	180	187	951	961	14	23	0	2	1,145	1,173
Spalding	664	602	1,633	1,665	112	50	26	10	2,435	2,327
Stephens	382	358	685	617	42	53	17	16	1,126	1,044
Sumter	915	813	1,846	1,814	91	115	38	43	2,890	2,785
Tattnall	174	184	1,791	1,831	55	46	35	26	2,055	2,087
Thomas	1,482	1,478	2,269	2,280	38	30	11	30	3,800	3,818
Tift	1,211	1,315	7,458	7,369	187	199	298	1,142	9,154	10,025
Toombs	634	596	1,558	1,534	94	80	76	55	2,362	2,265
Treutlen	50	34	2,096	1,838	13	20	4	5	2,163	1,897
Troup	1,383	1,182	5,582	6,044	149	128	92	24	7,206	7,378
Walker	580	460	2,331	2,120	57	59	20	18	2,988	2,657
Ware	1,039	994	2,886	2,905	154	151	42	43	4,121	4,093
Washington	917	687	344	287	0	0	0	0	1,261	974
Wayne	446	375	944	901	65	98	16	18	1,471	1,392
Worth	391	6	2,634	2,426	33	18	28	61	3,086	2,511
TOTAL	83,501	75,319	245,343	226,901	72,119*	44,444	96,080*	34,944*	497,043*	381,608*

*Incomplete data.

Juvenile Courts

Georgia's juvenile court exclusive original jurisdiction extends to cases involving delinquent children alleged to have committed noncapital offenses and unruly children under the 17, deprived children under the age of 18 and juvenile traffic offenders under the age of 16. In addition, the juvenile court has jurisdiction in custody proceedings referred from the superior court and in cases involving the termination of parental rights and enlistment in the military services and consent to marriage for minors. The juvenile court exercises concurrent jurisdiction with the superior court over cases involving capital offenses. Appeals from the juvenile court in all cases of inal judgment are to the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court.

Effective with the beginning of the 1984 fiscal year, the state's juvenile proceedings laws authorize the superior court judge or majority of superior court judges in each circuit to appoint one or more juvenile court judges with jurisdiction throughout the circuit, unless otherwise provided by law. (One such exception is the juvenile court judgeship in Floyd County which is an elective position.) If no person is appointed as circuit-wide juvenile court judge, all judgeships established pursuant to former law will continue as in effect on July 1, 1983, until the time that a circuit-wide judge is appointed or until terminated by two successive county grand jury recommendations.

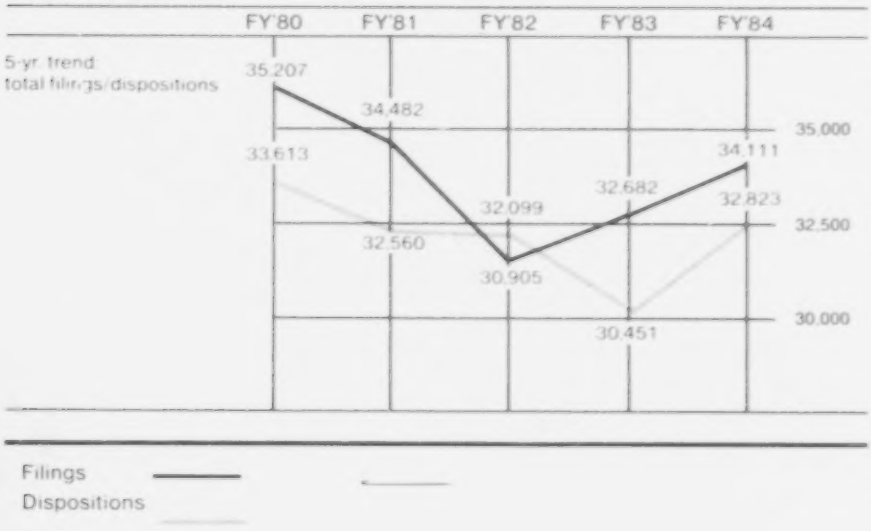
At the end of fiscal year 1984, there were 11 full-time juvenile court judges and 39 part-time judges serving in the state's 62 separate juvenile courts created according to the former Georgia juvenile proceedings code. Of the 50 judges serving, three served as both juvenile and state court judge. Superior court judges heard juvenile cases in the remaining 94 counties. Twenty-two juvenile court referees assisted the juvenile or superior court judge in presiding over juvenile court cases in 23 counties.

Juvenile court judges generally serve terms of four years. At the time a person is appointed as judge, the person must be 30 years of age, be a citizen of the state for three years and have practiced law for at least three years. Other than those referees serving on July 1, 1983, a referee must be a member of the State Bar or a law school graduate.

Juvenile court judges are required by law to participate in annual training seminars established by the Council of Juvenile Court Judges. Superior court judges exercising juvenile court jurisdiction may meet the training requirement by attending seminars held in conjunction with superior court judges' seminars provided by the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education.

Statewide total juvenile court filings and dispositions are compared below for fiscal years 1980-1984. Juvenile court caseload for FY'84 is presented by county in the table on pages 16-18.

Juvenile Courts



FY 1984 Juvenile Court Caseload (Number of children)

County	Delinquent		Unruly		Traffic		Deprived		Special Proceedings		Total	
	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
Appling	30	34	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	41
Atkinson	9	9	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11
Bacon	14	11	0	0	0	0	14	13	0	0	28	24
Baker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baldwin	54	54	7	7	0	0	17	17	1	1	79	79
Banks	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	4	0	0	4	5
Barrow	95	78	9	8	11	10	44	34	0	1	159	131
Bartow	292	284	88	91	19	19	224	209	84	81	707	684
Ben Hill	30	29	7	7	0	0	17	17	0	0	54	53
Berrien	18	18	1	1	2	2	8	5	0	0	29	26
Bibb	581	588	97	101	3	3	75	71	99	83	855	846
Bleckley	11	12	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	14	15
Brantley	15	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	11
Brooks	20	18	2	2	2	1	7	5	5	1	36	27
Bryan	38	35	16	15	4	4	10	10	1	1	69	65
Bulloch	56	50	16	15	8	10	17	20	8	8	105	103
Burke	22	25	0	0	0	0	7	10	0	0	29	35
Butts	21	16	1	1	0	0	3	3	5	4	30	24
Calhoun	9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9
Camden	53	38	8	3	0	0	16	7	0	0	77	48
Candler	4	4	2	2	0	0	3	3	0	0	9	9
Carroll	85	84	2	3	6	6	80	57	7	12	180	162
Catoosa	73	70	18	18	8	6	31	17	11	5	141	116
Charlton	14	12	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	14
Chatham	1,267	1,297	184	186	85	81	221	193	63	61	1,820	1,818
Chattahoochee	21	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	21
Chattooga	16	11	16	16	4	2	25	19	0	0	61	48
Cherokee	206	159	75	67	13	12	123	72	34	14	451	324
Clarke	312	314	45	46	1	0	33	33	103	107	494	500
Clay	3	3	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	5	5
Clayton	717	696	295	281	29	39	176	165	109	101	1,329	1,282
Clinch	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	6
Cobb	1,032	1,042	555	528	92	91	237	249	49	54	1,965	1,964
Coffee	44	32	3	5	8	8	0	0	0	0	55	45
Colquitt	92	92	8	8	0	0	32	33	4	4	136	137
Columbia	135	129	30	32	2	2	0	0	9	8	176	171
Cook	52	51	5	5	1	1	9	8	0	0	67	65
Coweta	182	191	47	46	17	17	112	103	9	12	367	369
Crawford	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Crisp	66	66	10	12	0	0	15	22	0	1	91	101
Dade	12	11	0	0	1	0	25	24	8	6	46	41
Dawson	19	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	22	3
Decatur	63	46	2	1	1	0	10	8	0	1	76	56
DeKalb	1,928	1,749	774	799	80	78	394	387	99	88	3,275	3,101
Dodge	28	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	28
Dooly	22	22	6	6	0	0	6	6	0	0	34	34
Dougherty	562	605	63	62	10	13	80	87	8	8	723	775
Douglas	238	234	47	45	6	8	42	31	15	14	348	332
Early	31	30	1	1	1	1	4	4	0	0	37	36
Echols	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Effingham	28	28	10	9	0	0	10	9	4	4	52	50
Elbert	22	24	2	4	4	4	7	14	2	6	37	52
Emanuel	19	19	5	5	0	0	25	25	0	0	49	49
Evans	26	19	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	29	21

FY 1984 Juvenile Court Caseload (Number of children)

County	Delinquent		Unruly		Traffic		Deprived		Special Proceedings		Total	
	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
Fannin	10	12	5	1	2	2	14	9	1	2	32	26
Fayette	60	57	4	3	10	10	3	3	6	6	83	79
Floyd	239	236	166	162	34	34	79	89	2	5	520	526
Forsyth	63	54	36	28	11	5	57	31	0	0	167	118
Franklin	19	16	1	1	2	2	12	8	0	0	34	27
Fulton	3,073	3,066	582	584	122	129	669	716	83	79	4,529	4,574
Gilmer	24	13	13	8	0	0	4	4	0	0	41	25
Glascock	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	4	6
Glynn	362	321	146	138	15	14	42	39	12	13	577	525
Gordon	121	107	92	72	17	15	74	50	31	30	335	274
Grady	42	24	3	1	0	0	6	3	0	0	51	28
Greene	10	9	0	0	0	0	4	3	0	0	14	12
Gwinnett	726	701	362	359	58	49	244	211	105	99	1,495	1,419
Habersham	21	0	1	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	32	0
Hall	233	239	122	124	31	30	50	64	40	40	476	497
Hancock	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	4
Haralson	35	32	2	1	1	1	19	10	0	2	57	46
Harris	7	7	2	2	3	3	0	0	0	0	12	12
Hart	39	38	1	1	5	5	17	16	1	1	63	61
Heard	6	6	2	2	0	0	5	3	5	5	18	16
Henry	79	78	67	65	4	3	67	68	6	6	223	220
Houston	124	132	15	12	7	5	38	37	16	15	200	201
Irwin	16	15	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	17	16
Jackson	28	17	10	5	3	0	18	17	0	0	59	39
Jasper	1	10	1	1	0	0	9	20	0	0	11	31
Jeff Davis	36	35	7	6	3	3	0	0	0	0	46	44
Jefferson	21	19	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	23	21
Jenkins	11	11	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	15	15
Johnson	8	7	2	2	0	0	7	6	0	0	17	15
Jones	6	6	0	0	0	0	7	7	0	0	13	13
Lamar	13	12	7	7	1	1	6	6	5	3	32	29
Lanier	18	12	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	21	15
Laurens	91	80	0	0	4	2	24	16	0	0	119	98
Lee	40	44	12	13	11	11	1	1	24	23	88	92
Liberty	160	123	74	61	1	1	40	13	1	1	276	199
Lincoln	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	1	6	4
Long	18	18	11	2	0	0	5	1	0	0	34	21
Lowndes	130	120	13	12	0	0	58	49	0	0	201	181
Lumpkin	34	6	2	0	2	0	1	0	4	2	43	8
Macon	28	27	2	2	0	0	8	8	1	1	39	38
Madison	34	19	0	0	4	7	7	5	0	0	45	31
Marion	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
McDuffie	41	42	0	0	0	0	14	13	7	6	62	61
McIntosh	15	12	6	6	0	0	4	3	1	2	26	23
Meriwether	16	17	1	1	2	2	14	11	4	4	37	35
Miller	42	40	1	1	0	0	2	3	0	0	45	44
Mitchell	46	45	3	3	2	2	5	7	0	0	56	57
Monroe	25	22	0	0	0	0	6	4	2	1	33	27
Montgomery	3	3	0	0	0	0	11	11	0	0	14	14
Morgan	4	4	4	4	1	0	12	12	0	0	21	20
Murray	56	57	30	29	3	1	21	19	2	2	112	108
Muscogee	1,101	1,083	413	396	60	61	277	262	220	166	2,071	1,968
Newton	236	225	106	93	12	12	136	131	26	27	516	488
Oconee	26	24	1	1	1	1	8	10	0	0	36	36

FY 1984 Juvenile Court Caseload (Number of children)

County	Delinquent		Unruly		Traffic		Deprived		Special Proceedings		Total	
	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
Oglethorpe	4	5	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	7	7
Paulding	97	73	2	3	1	1	8	10	0	0	108	87
Peach	45	44	7	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	53	49
Pickens	29	32	13	12	9	8	9	9	9	9	69	70
Pierce	22	22	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	24	24
Pike	7	8	1	1	0	0	5	5	1	1	14	15
Polk	28	25	45	19	5	5	29	19	0	0	107	68
Pulaski	13	17	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	17	18
Putnam	12	12	11	10	0	0	19	13	0	0	42	35
Quitman	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Rabun	7	15	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	12	16
Randolph	41	39	0	0	0	0	12	11	2	2	55	52
Richmond	1,106	1,088	308	308	32	33	17	17	7	7	1,470	1,453
Rockdale	126	120	35	35	11	11	33	35	17	19	222	220
Schley	11	11	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	14	15
Screven	14	13	4	4	0	0	5	5	0	0	23	22
Seminole	15	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	11
Spalding	212	217	70	66	5	5	59	55	4	4	350	347
Stephens	8	4	0	0	0	0	8	5	1	0	17	9
Stewart	24	26	6	5	0	0	6	3	1	1	37	35
Sumter	104	108	28	28	2	5	16	16	2	2	152	159
Talbot	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
Taliaferro	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Tattnall	29	24	7	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	31
Taylor	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
Telfair	25	38	0	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	27	42
Terrell	34	45	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	36	47
Thomas	124	123	35	39	4	3	38	32	12	12	213	209
Tift	210	185	39	31	5	5	14	13	1	1	269	235
Toombs	24	24	7	7	0	0	7	7	0	0	38	38
Towns	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	4	5
Treutlen	12	12	10	7	1	1	6	4	0	0	29	24
Troup	377	373	21	19	8	7	96	107	6	6	508	512
Turner	46	27	0	0	3	1	3	3	0	0	52	31
Twiggs	14	14	1	1	0	0	6	6	0	0	21	21
Union	2	2	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	5	5
Upson	32	37	1	1	0	0	25	29	0	0	58	67
Walker	81	85	48	45	33	32	34	28	12	9	208	199
Walton	403	402	122	117	90	86	137	134	19	23	771	762
Ware	184	198	72	88	27	33	169	167	64	72	516	558
Warren	15	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	4
Washington	30	27	3	3	0	0	4	4	0	0	37	34
Wayne	50	49	11	18	7	8	17	21	5	5	90	101
Webster	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	3	0	0	5	4
Wheeler	9	9	1	1	0	0	12	12	0	0	22	22
White	6	6	3	1	2	2	0	4	0	3	11	16
Whitfield	264	285	136	135	18	17	165	157	43	46	626	640
Wilcox	5	5	4	4	0	0	3	3	0	0	12	12
Wilkes	2	0	0	0	0	0	13	15	0	0	15	15
Wilkinson	2	2	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	5	5
Worth	60	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	20,282	19,614	5,855	5,689	1,126	1,098	5,292	4,971	1,556	1,451	34,111	32,823

Probate Courts

Georgia's probate courts exercise jurisdiction in the probate of wills, the administration of estates, the appointment of guardians and the involuntary hospitalization of incapacitated adults and other dependent individuals. Probate judges are also authorized to perform certain administrative functions, such as issuing marriage licenses, pistol permits and delayed birth certificates.

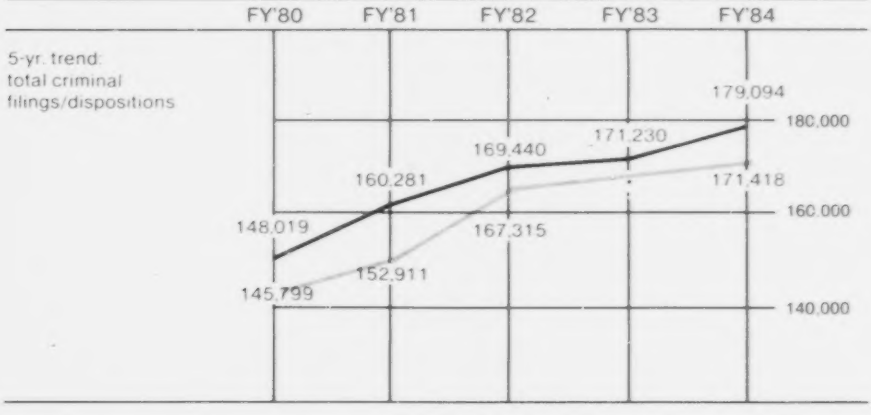
Other duties for which probate judges may be responsible, depending on the particular county, include holding habeas corpus hearings, supervising local elections or holding courts of inquiry. (Twenty-two probate judges also serve as chief magistrate for their counties.) Probate courts may also hear traffic cases and try violations of state game and fish laws, unless there is a demand for a jury trial.

There are 159 probate judges in Georgia, each serving a single county. Each probate judge is elected in a partisan election by the voters of the county to a term of four years. In most counties, a vacancy in office is filled through special election ordered by an official serving as interim judge. In other counties, designated or appointed persons fill the vacancy until the next succeeding general election.

Georgia law requires probate judges to fulfill an annual training requirement by attending seminars conducted by the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education and planned together with the Executive Probate Judges Council. The Council is a state agency charged with the responsibility to advise the Institute on matters concerning continuing education for probate judges.

A comparison of total criminal filings and dispositions for those probate courts exercising criminal jurisdiction is presented below for fiscal years 1980-1984. The tables on pages 20-23 list the FY'84 criminal caseload for those probate courts exercising criminal jurisdiction and the FY'84 civil caseload of 105 probate courts for which data was voluntarily submitted.

Probate Courts



*Disposition data unavailable for FY'83.

Filings ———

Dispositions ———

FY 1984 Probate Court Civil Caseload (Docket entries filed)

County	Total Civil	Adminis-tration	No Admin-istration Necessary	Probate Common	Probate Solemn	Guardian-ship	Year's Support	Habeas Corpus	Hospital-ization
Appling	131	34	10	0	40	9	10	0	28
Atkinson	43	9	3	3	20	5	0	0	3
Bacon	54	6	4	0	9	5	2	0	28
Baldwin	366	25	8	12	72	81	5	1	162
Banks	53	10	1	0	32	8	2	0	0
Barrow	132	17	12	2	51	12	3	0	35
Bartow	253	29	6	3	90	31	10	0	84
Ben Hill	69	9	4	1	37	14	4	1	0
Berrien	157	28	11	6	35	12	14	0	51
Bibb	605	61	41	17	355	38	29	0	64
Bleckley	31	7	0	2	17	3	2	0	0
Candler	58	6	6	3	28	10	0	0	5
Catoosa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charlton	33	15	0	0	11	0	2	0	5
Chatham	1,306	118	98	30	490	231	109	0	220
Chattooga	191	13	2	6	33	10	4	0	123
Cherokee	159	15	14	0	94	13	13	0	10
Clarke	405	42	19	14	153	83	8	0	86
Clay	18	0	2	0	15	1	0	10	0
Clayton	562	60	34	13	198	20	69	0	68
Clinch	27	2	3	0	12	120	2	0	0
Cobb	1,365	132	76	26	625	8	94	0	60
Coffee	114	21	16	6	45	336	5	0	0
Colquitt	199	25	19	5	87	21	7	0	36
Cook	73	7	0	0	25	20	5	0	33
Coweta	273	29	9	2	124	3	35	16	36
Dade	39	1	6	0	13	38	0	0	14
Dawson	32	1	2	1	15	5	1	0	5
Decatur	92	5	5	6	36	7	1	0	29
Dodge	81	4	3	17	46	10	3	0	3
Dougherty	307	39	33	13	164	5	12	0	0
Douglas	250	20	12	6	90	46	50	0	12
Emanuel	114	22	162	3	54	60	1	0	0
Evans	28	10	2	2	11	18	0	0	0
Fayette	126	7	7	10	50	3	12	0	20
Floyd	356	36	27	16	189	20	13	0	50
Fulton	3,172	373	332	205	1,299	25	132	0	15
Gilmer	43	5	1	0	20	816	12	0	0
Glascock	20	2	1	0	13	5	0	0	0
Glynn	310	58	12	13	136	4	13	0	51
Gordon	127	34	8	2	58	27	7	0	0
Greene	70	12	1	3	33	18	1	0	16
Gwinnett	678	63	36	11	300	4	50	0	61
Hall	265	30	21	17	162	157	13	0	0
Haralson	76	14	0	1	45	22	8	0	0
Harris	65	8	2	4	45	8	3	0	0
Heard	94	23	0	1	44	3	2	0	21
Henry	181	16	14	9	84	44	13	1	0
Houston	266	34	8	5	134	75	10	0	0
Irwin	29	1	2	1	20	5	0	0	0
Jackson	98	11	8	2	60	10	7	0	0
Jeff Davis	38	7	5	3	18	3	2	0	0
Jenkins	54	6	4	4	18	7	1	0	14
Jones	102	14	9	8	32	13	0	0	26

FY 1984 Probate Court Civil Caseload (Docket entries filed)

County	Total Civil	Adminis-tration	No Admin-istration Necessary	Probate Common	Probate Solemn	Guardian-ship	Year's Support	Habeas Corpus	Hospital-ization
Lamar	54	8	6	2	33	2	0	0	3
Lanier	25	2	2	0	14	2	1	0	4
Laurens	218	25	19	2	65	28	5	0	74
Lee	13	3	1	1	3	2	2	0	0
Lincoln	31	5	0	3	19	2	2	0	0
Madison	93	6	7	2	38	12	3	0	25
Marion	20	6	3	0	9	0	2	0	0
McIntosh	42	10	2	7	15	4	0	0	4
Morgan	96	13	4	2	35	15	2	0	5
Murray	97	17	3	1	36	10	13	0	17
Newton	228	29	11	8	94	39	7	1	39
Oglethorpe	62	5	9	1	23	16	6	0	2
Paulding	147	11	7	0	54	10	8	0	57
Peach	104	6	7	5	42	6	3	0	35
Pickens	100	18	12	0	27	2	6	0	35
Pierce	66	7	5	4	13	7	4	0	26
Pike	42	3	5	1	20	1	3	0	9
Polk	207	15	3	2	98	26	3	0	60
Pulaski	58	7	6	3	23	4	5	0	10
Quitman	14	1	1	0	11	0	0	0	1
Rabun	59	7	2	1	30	5	2	2	10
Randolph	55	11	1	1	24	2	4	7	5
Richmond	961	118	57	54	295	91	117	0	229
Schley	13	1	2	0	7	0	0	0	3
Screven	51	3	9	1	31	3	1	0	3
Seminole	115	15	9	1	48	8	12	0	22
Spalding	424	62	43	6	167	32	34	0	80
Stephens	132	11	1	9	65	17	6	0	23
Stewart	36	10	3	0	15	2	0	0	6
Sumter	126	20	10	5	85	3	3	0	0
Taliaferro	7	1	2	0	4	0	0	0	0
Taylor	71	15	1	0	13	3	1	0	38
Terrell	44	6	0	4	25	5	1	0	3
Thomas	503	20	5	6	103	17	1	0	351
Tift	134	12	10	2	60	15	1	0	34
Treutlen	20	6	1	0	12	1	0	0	0
Turner	91	10	1	1	28	4	1	0	46
Twiggs	93	12	2	2	23	6	12	0	36
Union	54	17	2	0	28	3	4	0	0
Upson	194	18	20	3	91	13	8	0	41
Walker	269	28	21	8	143	45	24	0	0
Walton	163	0	13	6	78	11	4	0	41
Ware	243	31	16	3	116	16	19	0	42
Warren	22	4	1	0	8	1	0	0	8
Washington	80	10	9	1	40	11	3	0	6
Webster	32	6	4	0	12	3	4	0	3
Wheeler	32	10	5	0	9	4	1	0	3
White	46	6	2	1	30	2	2	0	3
Whitfield	560	157	25	29	211	55	19	0	64
Wilkinson	48	11	2	1	27	5	2	0	0
Worth	74	5	6	1	35	6	2	0	19

FY 1984 Probate Court Criminal Caseload (Docket entries)

County	Misdemeanor		Traffic		Total Criminal	
	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed	Filed	Disposed
Bacon	66	39	368	347	434	386
Baker	0	0	517	517	517	517
Banks	55	52	1,497	1,292	1,552	1,344
Barrow	0	0	730	744	730	744
Bartow	389	289	4,994	4,102	5,383	4,391
Ben Hill	22	22	872	900	894	922
Berrien	76	76	545	545	621	621
Bleckley	67	67	702	702	769	769
Brantley	82	40	1,108	1,050	1,190	1,190
Brooks	47	47	1,453	1,453	1,500	1,500
Butts	116	89	3,556	3,088	3,672	3,177
Calhoun	79	75	413	402	492	477
Camden	0	0	3,282	3,165	3,282	3,165
Catoosa	1	1	5,120	5,120	5,121	5,121
Charlton	0	0	616	657	616	657
Chattahoochee	67	67	392	344	459	411
Clay	138	132	309	271	447	403
Columbia	226	211	3,104	2,936	3,330	3,147
Cook	224	224	3,837	3,837	4,061	4,061
Crawford	27	20	2,306	1,811	2,333	1,831
Crisp	31	17	3,774	3,329	3,805	3,346
Dade	16	16	2,597	2,455	2,613	2,471
Dawson	117	123	888	921	1,005	1,044
Dodge	0	0	825	825	825	825
Dooly	0	0	2,896	2,804	2,896	2,864
Douglas	33	29	6,385	5,909	6,418	5,938
Echols	38	38	155	155	193	193
Fannin	17	14	747	714	764	728
Fayette	25	27	1,792	1,743	1,817	1,770
Floyd	303	222	5,340	4,071	5,643	4,293
Franklin	38	42	3,048	3,183	3,086	3,225
Gilmer	104	102	580	549	684	651
Glascock	8	4	72	60	80	64
Gordon	147	148	3,067	2,928	3,214	3,076
Greene	129	129	2,326	2,326	2,455	2,455
Hancock	25	25	386	386	411	411
Haralson	29	19	2,389	2,361	2,418	2,380
Harris	173	173	1,499	1,515	1,672	1,688
Hart	0	0	810	870	810	870
Heard	71	74	872	844	943	918
Henry	91	89	7,809	7,038	7,900	7,127
Irwin	58	58	644	644	702	702
Jasper	29	29	985	985	1,014	1,014
Jeff Davis*	66	66	755	762	821	828
Jones	30	30	2,163	2,163	2,193	2,193
Lamar	7	1	1,720	1,571	1,727	1,572
Lanier	0	0	394	394	394	394
Laurens	48	30	5,081	4,585	5,129	4,615

FY 1984 Probate Court Criminal Caseload (Docket entries)

County	Misdemeanor Filed	Misdemeanor Disposed	Traffic Filed	Traffic Disposed	Total Criminal Filed	Total Criminal Disposed
Lee	123	114	1,632	1,474	1,755	1,588
Lincoln	171	165	265	311	436	476
Lumpkin	74	74	915	924	989	998
Madison	77	73	1,115	1,002	1,192	1,075
Marion	13	13	1,185	1,167	1,198	1,180
McDuffie	37	49	2,908	2,843	2,945	2,892
McIntosh	0	0	2,096	2,096	2,096	2,096
Meriwether	68	62	2,841	2,453	2,909	2,515
Monroe	116	140	9,994	10,579	10,110	10,719
Montgomery	22	22	573	573	595	595
Morgan	73	73	4,142	4,142	4,215	4,215
Murray	188	201	2,262	2,249	2,450	2,450
Newton	69	71	3,864	4,057	3,933	4,128
Oconee	109	82	1,517	1,266	1,626	1,348
Oglethorpe	106	73	645	728	751	801
Paulding	11	10	970	1,208	981	1,218
Peach	25	25	1,520	1,283	1,545	1,308
Pickens	2	2	1,658	1,658	1,660	1,660
Pike	29	27	1,261	1,192	1,290	1,219
Polk	56	50	1,540	1,454	1,596	1,504
Pulaski	5	5	331	331	336	336
Quitman	102	102	229	229	331	331
Rabun	63	63	409	406	472	469
Randolph	0	0	773	773	773	773
Rockdale	0	0	5,497	5,266	5,497	5,266
Schley	12	37	207	614	219	651
Seminole	65	65	897	893	962	958
Stewart	73	64	675	598	748	662
Talbot	95	94	1,960	1,950	2,055	2,044
Taliaferro	20	20	630	630	650	650
Taylor	9	9	1,561	1,470	1,570	1,479
Telfair	70	70	968	968	1,038	1,038
Terrell	23	23	999	999	1,022	1,022
Towns	3	3	237	237	240	240
Turner	22	22	2,666	2,610	2,688	2,632
Twiggs	92	92	664	663	756	755
Union	36	36	237	237	273	273
Upson	47	35	3,586	3,326	3,633	3,361
Walton	64	70	3,015	3,015	3,079	3,085
Warren	9	9	101	93	110	102
Webster	0	0	483	472	483	472
Wheeler	0	0	1,195	1,090	1,195	1,090
White	2	2	613	613	615	615
Whitfield	154	163	4,041	4,619	4,195	4,782
Wilcox	35	23	561	442	596	465
Wilkes	97	96	903	902	1,000	998
Wilkinson	0	0	599	495	599	495
TOTAL	5,782	5,385	173,312	166,033	179,094	171,418

*Data is incomplete for cases filed

Magistrate Courts

On July 1, 1983, due to new constitutional and statutory provisions, a system of magistrate courts replaced existing justice of the peace courts, small claims courts, certain existing magistrate courts and the County Court of Echols County. These courts were granted uniform jurisdiction to 1) hear applications for and issue search and arrest warrants, 2) preside in actions concerning bonds for good behavior and bonds to keep the peace, 3) hold criminal commitment hearings, 4) try county ordinance violations, 5) try civil claims up to $2,500 where jurisdiction is not vested exclusively in the superior court and 6) preside over dispossessory actions and issue distress warrants.

Magistrates are empowered to fine (up to $200) and punish (up to 10 days) for contempt and may set bail when the granting of bail is not exclusively reserved to another court. Additionally, the magistrate court may issue subpoenas for witnesses and administer oaths of office for which authority is not assigned to another official. Since the magistrate court cannot conduct jury trials, county ordinance violation cases must be transferred to the state or superior courts when a written demand for jury trial is made before trial. (Appeals are to the state or superior court.)

There is a magistrate court located in each of Georgia's 159 counties, with one chief magistrate and one or more additional magistrates. Initially appointed by a majority of a county's superior court judges, chief magistrates are now elected in partisan elections. The chief magistrate appoints qualified persons to serve as magistrates, the number of which was originally fixed by the superior court judges of each county. The term of office for each magistrate is four years.

Magistrates must be residents of the county for one year preceeding the beginning of their term of office, be at least 25 years of age and possess a high school diploma or its equivalent. All magistrates are required by law to attend certification/training sessions provided by the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education in concert with the Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council.

As provided by law, judges of other limited jurisdiction courts may also serve as chief magistrate or magistrate of a county. At the end of the fiscal year, 22 probate judges, three juvenile court judges, two municipal court judges and two civil court judges served also as chief magistrate.

The table on pages 25-27 lists the FY'84 caseload by county of 105 magistrate courts for which data was voluntarily submitted in response to a caseload questionnaire.

Other Courts

Numerous other limited jurisdiction courts operate along with the two appellate and five major trial courts to form the Georgia judicial system.

Originally created by statute or constitution, certain special courts retain limited civil and criminal jurisdiction throughout their particular counties. Such courts include the civil courts located in Bibb and Richmond counties and the municipal courts of Columbus and Savannah. Special courts authorized to exercise criminal jurisdiction only are the county recorder's courts in Chatham, DeKalb, Gwinnett and Muscogee counties.

On the local level, Georgia has approximately 350 municipal courts which try local traffic offenses and cases involving violations of municipal ordinances and exercise the criminal jurisdiction of magistrate courts. These courts may also exercise concurrent jurisdiction over cases involving one ounce or less of marijuana. Originally established as courts of incorporated municipalities with varying names (city courts, mayor's courts, municipal courts, recorder's courts, police courts), these courts have been classified as municipal courts by the 1983 constitution. One exception is the City Court of Atlanta, which retains its old, constitutional name.

FY 1984 Magistrate Court Caseload (Docket entries)

County	Warrants Issued	County Ordinance Cases	Civil Claims Cases	Other Civil Cases	Total Cases Filed
Appling	1,085	0	285	69	1,439
Banks	309	22	93	40	464
Barrow	1,171	0	490	319	1,980
Berrien	633	0	231	140	1,004
Bibb	3,845	0	590*		4,435
Bryan	330	0	300	90	720
Bulloch	2,234	162	1,754	424	4,574
Burke	919	0	740	281	1,940
Butts	461	0	256	93	810
Calhoun	186	0	119	12	317
Candler	397	0	258	34	689
Catoosa	1,650	0	227*		1,877
Clarke 1	7,878	60	999	1,136	10,073
Clayton	5,819	0	5,100*		10,919
Cobb	10,412	0	563	0	10,975
Colquitt	1,805	0	1,373	315	3,493
Columbia	1,053	1	731	221	2,006
Coweta	1,503	75	1,253	501	3,332
Crawford	204	0	109	22	335
Crisp	1,066	0	529	359	1,954
Dawson	181	0	147	6	334
Decatur	963	0	594	323	1,880
DeKalb 2	14,152	0	38	0	14,190
Dodge	570	0	392	135	1,097
Dooly	244	0	397	79	720
Dougherty	8,876	0	2,925	978	12,779
Douglas	1,865	111	442	849	1,402
Effingham	424	0	259	21	704
Emanuel	942	0	504	134	1,580
Evans	433	0	357	103	693
Floyd	3,387	0	1,983	1,544	6,914
Forsyth	616	0	171	44	831
Franklin	611	0	308	92	1,011
Fulton	10,795	20,293	924	0	32,012
Glascock	22	6	112	31	171
Gordon	1,268	0	646	224	2,138
Greene	542	0	488	190	1,220
Habersham	1,312	65	436	17	1,830
Hancock	225	0	713	168	1,106
Haralson	240	0	200	34	474
Harris	217	0	252	118	587
Hart	559	0	389	120	1,068
Henry	1,353	59	868	267	2,547
Houston	1,702	0	1,566*		3,268
Jackson	973	0	382	316	1,671
Jasper	182	0	123	46	351
Jeff Davis	852	0	721*		1,573
Jefferson	963	0	933	365	2,261

FY 1984 Magistrate Court Caseload (Docket entries)

County	Warrants Issued	County Ordinance Cases	Civil Claims Cases	Other Civil Cases	Total Cases Filed
Jones	415	0	466	115	996
Lamar	326	0	234	321	881
Lanier	161	0	121	18	300
Lee	211	0	224	147	582
Long	334	0	79	23	436
Lowndes	4,337	0	6,822*		11,159
Lumpkin	375	0	532*		907
Macon	717	0	468	77	1,262
Madison	437	0	236*		673
McDuffie	832	0	957	390	2,179
McIntosh	324	0	246	55	625
Meriwether	277	0	453	217	947
Miller	75	0	200	38	313
Monroe	665	0	313	210	1,188
Morgan	432	0	315	102	849
Murray	1,154	0	308	164	1,626
Muscogee 3	4,250	0	16,065*		20,315
Newton	2,265	9	722	227	3,223
Paulding	728	5	69	52	854
Peach	1,057	25	458	349	1,889
Pickens	450	0	122	24	596
Pierce	418	0	281	51	750
Pike	372	0	132	18	522
Polk	715	0	649*		1,364
Putnam	244	0	976*		1,220
Quitman	26	0	7	0	33
Randolph	390	0	120	35	545
Richmond	5,703	421	6,998	4,834	17,956
Rockdale	1,771	112	563	343	2,789
Screven	312	0	785	265	1,362
Seminole	349	0	130	36	515
Spalding	2,315	0	1,705	1,525	5,545
Stephens	700	0	390	75	1,165
Talbot	108	0	121	6	235
Taliaferro	42	0	36	0	78
Tattnall	363	0	753	106	1,222
Telfair 4	584	0	260	93	937
Terrell	336	0	268	183	787
Thomas	2,827	0	2,521	866	6,214
Toombs	1,379	0	722	227	2,328
Towns	162	0	13	2	177
Treutlen	315	0	60	30	405
Troup	1,394	1	2,008	1,934	5,336
Twiggs	215	0	165	64	444
Union	275	0	190	26	491
Walton	1,578	3	591	377	2,549
Ware	2,651	1	500	479	3,631
Warren	194	0	392	183	769

FY 1984 Magistrate Court Caseload (Docket entries)

County	Warrants Issued	County Ordinance Cases	Civil Claims Cases	Other Civil Cases	Total Cases Filed
Washington	1,268	0	716	350	2,334
Wayne	901	0	383	237	1,521
Webster	63	0	113	9	185
Wheeler	94	0	172	19	285
White	231	0	92	24	347
Whitfield	3,584	0	2,750*		6,334
Wilcox	173	0	162	53	388
Wilkes	381	0	233	74	688
Wilkinson	286	0	344	45	657
Worth	1,237	0	145	63	1,445

*Includes all civil cases.

[1]All ordinance cases are city ordinance violations.

[2]Civil division did not open until 6/18/84.

[3]Figures include cases heard by the Municipal Court of Columbus. The chief magistrate sits as judge in both courts.

[4]For period 8/1/83 to 6/30/84.

Judicial Agencies

In beginning its second decade of operation, the Judicial Council of Georgia underwent further reorganization to enable it to better represent and serve the components of the state judicial system. The Council continued its efforts in several areas to establish systemwide, administrative support policies and actively worked to endorse new steps aimed at assisting trial judges with court operations.

The restructuring of Judicial Council membership, effective August 5, 1983, occurred in response to a Council-sponsored petition submitted to the Supreme Court in February, 1983. As ordered by the court, the chief justice and presiding justice serve as the permanent chairman and vice chairman of the Council. The new membership includes the 10 superior court judicial administrative district judges, the presidents and presidents-elect of each of the trial court judges councils and the chief judge and another, elected representative of the Court of Appeals. Thus, the Council represents all constitutional courts as well as all areas of the state. As constituted, all members serve as voting members, although the chairman will vote only in the event of a tie.

In line with its general responsibility to formulate and submit recommendations for the improved operation of the judicial system, the Judicial Council studied the need for additional superior court judgeships in 11 judicial circuits. The study resulted in the Council recommending to the 1984 legislature and the Governor the creation of seven new judgeships. Requests for four other superior court judgeships, a request to split one judicial circuit and requests for changes in state court judgeships and a new state court were not approved by the Council. In recommending judgeships, the Council seeks to promote the efficient and just disposition of cases through a balanced and equitable distribution of caseload among judges. Council judgeship endorsements are based on demonstrated needs resulting from comparative, objective studies.

Late in the year, the Council revised its stated policy on conducting and making recommendations concerning its annual judgeship study. The policy changes addressed questions concerning such issues as study deadlines, voting eligibility, deliberations sessions and weighted caseload threshold standards. It was the first time the Council had amended its judgeship policy since December, 1981.

The Judicial Council proposed several caseload-related improvements during the year. The Council made a recommendation that the Supreme Court use its rule-making authority to develop a retrieval information system which would ensure the processing of certain caseload data from each level of court. It also recommended that the court formulate rules, procedures and forms governing superior court docket books to improve reporting of uniform caseload information. A third proposal supported by the Council was the solicitation and designation in each judicial administrative district of a volunteer judge representing each class of court to document judicial time required to process different types of cases.

The Judicial Council concentrated its legislative efforts in only a few areas in 1984. It approved a resolution to seek enactment of legislation which would provide an appropriate increase in the compensation of appellate and superior court judges. Additionally, it went on record as opposing any bill that would transfer supervisory authority for the Board of Court Reporting from the Judicial Council to the Secretary of State's Occupational Certification Division. Finally, upon the legislative approval of a bill to eliminate class exemptions from jury service, the Council sought to ensure procedural safeguards by recommending that Governor Harris delay the effective date of the bill as long as possible in order to allow time for jury box revisions. This was followed by a concerted statewide effort

to revise jury boxes to comport with the new law.

Another matter addressed by the Council during the year was the conduct of judicial evaluation polls in Georgia. The Council reviewed questions and polling procedures used by local bar associations in investigating possible improvements in polling methods. As a result of the study, recommendations were made regarding the Supreme Court's responsibility to recommend polling practices and procedures to bar organizations, as well as the credibility of results and respondent objectiveness and anonymity.

The Council continued to execute certain administrative duties as required by various statutes. It approved the curriculum of the magistrate certification training proposed by the Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council. The Council issued nine opinions regarding the jurisdiction of the Board of Court Reporting, acted to resolve fee disputes arising throughout the year and made other recommendations concerning the Board's operating procedures and court reporting practices.

Administrative Office of the Courts

The Administrative Office of the Courts conducts staff activities under the guidance of the Judicial Council and the Council's chairman, the chief justice of the Supreme Court. Organized as two divisions, the AOC provides research, budget and management information services for the state court system. In addition, the AOC serves a liaison function through its administrative activities in connection with other state-level judicial agencies.

The AOC's administration/operations division performs fiscal support services that involve coordinating the judicial branch appropriations request, preparing the unified judicial budget and serving as accounting officer for eight publicly-funded judicial agencies. Another function of the division is to encourage communication and the exchange of information among judicial system components.

In promoting communication between judges, court support personnel and public and private agencies, the AOC published five issues of the *Georgia Courts Journal*. The *Courts Journal* informs readers of changes in court procedure, judicial personnel appointment and elections, recent legislation, local and national court management activities and judicial process concerns.

The AOC also completed and distributed a number of support publications originating from the AOC and other judicial agencies. In-house projects included volume nine (nine issues) of the *Judicial Legislative Log*, the 1983 *Georgia Courts Directory* and the *Tenth Annual Report on the Work of the Georgia Courts*. The AOC provided communications services to affiliated agencies by coordinating external publication and printing projects thoughout the year.

The AOC continued to monitor the news media to gauge public opinion regarding the activities of the judiciary and to identify matters of concern to the Judicial Council. Seven issues of the *Public Relations Digest* – abstracts of articles about the courts appearing in the Georgia press – were compiled and distributed to Judicial Council members.

The research/court services division of the AOC has the responsibility to gather statistical, financial and other information on the judicial work of the courts to identify current and anticipated court needs and propose recommendations for improvements. Each year the primary research effort is directed at supervising the collection of caseload and other data and analyzing it to determine the need for additional judgeships. The evaluation of such data may also contribute to planning efforts by government authorities and may assist local officials in court management activities. During the past year, the AOC analyzed fiscal year 1983 caseload data and prepared individual reports of circuit caseload in response to specific requests. Reports of the age of open cases in superior courts for fiscal years 1982 and 1983 were also compiled for all circuits.

Other research activities pertained to both recurring projects and newly initiated studies. The AOC conducted its annual survey of judicial and court personnel salaries and subsequent to an analysis of changes in statutory and case law, prepared an update to the *Jury Commissioners Handbook*. The AOC drafted 40 records retention schedules later approved by the State Records Committee to assist local officials in managing court records. Alternative methods of collecting caseload data were evaluated in a feasibility study of case-by-case reporting systems undertaken by the AOC. Staff assistance was provided to various judges' councils and the superior court clerks association in regard to the adoption and approval of uniform rules. The AOC also began work on a survey designed to identify computerized court functions in Georgia.

Results of a performance audit of AOC operations conducted in 1983 by the state Department of Audits at the request of members of the General Assembly were released in August 1983. As part of the audit, judges of different classes of courts and superior court clerks were surveyed to obtain input from individuals affected by AOC activities. Audit findings indicated that, by a wide margin, judges and clerks felt that AOC activities contributed to improvements within the judicial system.

Following the reorganization of the Judicial Council and the Chief Justice assuming the council chair, the AOC offices were physically relocated in closer proximity to the Supreme Court. This move afforded both the chairman and the AOC the opportunity to combine resources and to ensure administrative control of AOC operations.

Board of Court Reporting

The Board of Court Reporting regulates the state's court reporting profession and guarantees a minimum proficiency level by reporting practitioners through its certification of official and freelance court reporters. The Board also investigates complaints filed against court reporters and administers disciplinary action when warranted. The Judicial Council, which appoints Board members, governs court reporting fees through the regulation and adjustment of an established fee schedule.

Twice each year the Board administers a certification examination to test reporting skills in three methods of takedown, including machine and manual shorthand and Stenomask. Individuals who pass the initial examination submit an annual renewal fee to remain certified.

During the past year, the Board had made two additional sets of dictation tapes in its effort to improve the efficiency of the testing procedure. The Board continued to monitor the use of the tapes for dictation and search for ways to improve the quality of the tapes and equipment.

Also during the year, the Board tested 198 of 223 persons that applied for testing. Of the 56 persons certified, 54 successfully completed the "B" test and two passed the "A" test. Reporters must pass the "B" test, which involves dictation, transcription and a written exam, to become certified. The "A" test provides certified reporters an opportunity to upgrade their professional status. Among those tested, one reporter's certificate was upgraded, while three persons changed their takedown method.

On June 30, 1984, there were 660 certified court reporters in Georgia. Also on that date, another 43 persons were operating under temporary Board permits and 11 other persons worked under temporary judicial permits. The total number of new permits issued for the year was 65. The Board revoked 17 permits for failure to attend the certification test, while 10 permits were revoked for failure to pass the test in two testing periods.

On May 1, 1984, the Board suspended 50 certificates for failure to submit the renewal fee and application by the April 1 deadline. Seven reporters subsequently reinstated their certificates by remitting the renewal and delinquent fees.

A major part of the Board's activities during the year centered around proceedings associated with the filings of formal complaints against reporters. Of three formal complaints filed, two concerned the fee schedule and one was still in progress at the end of the year. One complaint, appealed to the Judicial Council because of the Board's lack of jurisdiction, resulted in a Council recommendation that the Supreme Court confer upon the Board jurisdiction to hear complaints involving the fee schedule. The Judicial Council also adopted nine opinions in answer to questions posed by the Board. These questions involved issues pertaining to the Board's jurisdiction, the fee schedule, the compensation of a substitute court reporter, transcript ownership, the circumstances for transcript divulgence and the nature of a transcript as a public record.

In other action, the Judicial Council amended the fee schedule for official court reporters to include a fee for daily copy. All requests for daily copy were required to have the approval of the trial judge before the reporter is permitted to furnish the service.

Council of Juvenile Court Judges

Efforts of the Council of Juvenile Court Judges during FY'84 focused on completion of uniform rules of practice and procedure for the state's juvenile courts, development of requirements analysis for automating operations of metropolitan county juvenile courts and continuation of ongoing projects to promote more effective administration of the juvenile courts of the state.

The Proposed Uniform Rules of Practice and Procedure for the juvenile courts of Georgia were prepared by a committee of judges and lawyers at the direction of the Supreme Court of Georgia. The rules are designed to bring uniformity as to procedures and recordkeeping to the juvenile courts. The rules are comprehensive in scope and cover such matters as conduct of proceedings, discovery and sharing of court records among juvenile courts. The full Council met in April, 1984, to review the work of the uniform rules committee. Proposed revisions were submitted by the membership at that time and, after a vote of the Council, the rules were approved for submission to the Supreme Court. Rules will go into effect upon order of the Supreme Court.

The Council collaborated with court personnel from Fulton, DeKalb, Clayton and Cobb counties to prepare a detailed requirements analysis for computerization of juvenile court operations in these counties. The Council received funds from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for the purchase of computer hardware and development of software to bring these counties under the statewide information system. When the system becomes operational, the Council's computer will process and store caseload information for each of these four counties.

The Council initiated steps to bring the Permanent Homes for Children in Georgia project under its direction. This project, which provides for judicially-appointed citizen panels to review the cases of children placed

in foster care arrangements, has previously been sponsored by the Georgia Alliance for Children.

New liaison committees were established between the Council and the State Department of Education and the Department of Family and Children Services during FY'84. Judges will meet periodically with officials of these agencies to discuss issues of mutual concern.

Other Council activities and functions during the year included: continued operation of the Purchase of Services for Juvenile Offenders program, production of caseload reports for 66 counties participating in the juvenile information system, sponsorship of continuing education for judges and direct service personnel of the juvenile courts and updates of the *Juvenile Court Benchbook* and *Judges Directory*.

Legislation passed during the 1984 session of the General Assembly affecting the juvenile courts included: a statute providing for the commissioning of juvenile court judges by the Secretary of State, a House Resolution creating a Children and Youth Study Committee, and at the request of the Council, amendment of OCGA 15-11-57 regarding contents and enforcement of protective orders.

Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council

As of July 1, 1983, the Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council issues certification to magistrates who have satisfactorily completed an annual training requirement as established by the Council. Formerly the Georgia Justice Courts Training Council, the Council was redesignated by the 1983 magistrate court act that created magistrate courts from existing justice of the peace, small claims and certain county courts. Upon its new designation, the Council formulated and currently operates under a new set of bylaws.

In order to become certified under the new act, all persons in office as magistrates at the beginning of the fiscal year and persons becoming magistrates after that date were required to complete 40 hours of initial training in the performance of magistrate duties. Persons appointed or elected as magistrates after July 1, 1983, must also fulfill the 40-hour training requirement by attending the first scheduled training session after assuming office. To maintain certified status, all magistrates must complete 20 hours of additional training each year.

During FY'84, the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education conducted for the Council two continuous 40-hour training sessions and two split sessions held in 20-hour segments. In all, 180 hours of training were administered in certifying 414 magistrates. Magistrates received basic instruction in theory and practice of the criminal, civil, ethical, record-keeping and general administrative aspects of their office. Seminar attendees paid tuition fees of $100 to defray speaker and materials costs. New magistrates were distributed sets of the Georgia unannotated code with supplement and index.

Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council
FY 1984 Seminars

Date	Location	# Hours	Attendees	# Certified
September 14-16, 1983*	Athens	20	129	–
September 28-30, 1983*	Tifton	20	58	–
January 4-6, 1984	Athens	20	129	54
January 16-20, 1984	Macon	40	126	126
May 16-18, 1984	Tifton	20	58	58
May 23-25, 1984	Athens	20	129	75
June 11-15, 1984	Macon	40	101	101

*These seminars were the first portions of split sessions.

Magistrates formerly certified as justices of the peace or small claims court judges received a code supplement and index.

To aid attorney magistrates in completing mandatory continuing legal education credits required by the State Bar of Georgia, the Council applied to the Institute of Continuing Legal Education requesting that ICLE grant credit for Council-sponsored training. ICLE approved the request, making a provision for total reciprocal credit with the exception of a legal ethics requirement which the attorneys must complete through ICLE. The attorney magistrates are charged a nominal fee per instructional hour to cover ICLE's administrative costs associated with the training.

During the year, the Council took specific action to amend its registration and attendance policy. It determined that the tuition fee will be nonrefundable in cases of non-attendance following registration. Due to the number of magistrates attending training, the Council will not guarantee an attendance reservation for persons failing to pre-register. Replacements for registrants who paid full tuition and attended training may attend training at half the tuition fee under certain conditions. Finally, the Council adopted a new policy concerning persons who become incapacitated and are unable to attend training.

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education

During fiscal year 1984, the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education continued its emphasis on providing high-quality state-based training for its court personnel. The Institute conducted 22 training programs with attendees numbering approximately 1,969 judges, clerks, court administrators, probation personnel and judicial secretaries.

Among these programs were the first 40-hour basic certification courses for superior court clerks and magistrates and a certification program for probate court judges. Also included was a unit on the state's new DUI law targeted at municipal court and other traffic court judges. Independent juvenile court probation officers participated in a program joining detention workers, court services staff and the probation officers as the training audience. All five programs represented first-time efforts on the part of the Institute in coordinating such training for these groups.

Included among the year's program highlights were new instructional methods and training topics. Trial judges learned evidence law through problem analysis and group discussion of civil cases rather than from lecture presentations. These judges were also exposed to contemporary scientific information on the pharmacology of substance abuse as well as resources for sentencing to treatment alcohol abusing offenders. Court clerks devoted virtually an entire training day to technology's expanding role in court operations. Intensive civil training provided to magistrates tested the existing knowledge base of attorney magistrates.

In terms of nationally-based training, 68 persons applied to the Institute for financial assistance, while 43 individuals actually used some funding. Usually, the Institute's assistance amounted to 80 percent of the out-of-state training costs. Total funds spent by ICJE for nationally-based training during the year were $28,295.

Several new policies considered or implemented the past year further defined the role of judicial education in Georgia. ICJE accepted status as an accredited sponsor of Georgia Bar mandatory legal training activities early in 1984, providing that certain instructional units in ICJE programs would qualify for legal education credits upon application of an attorney judge. At the request of the Supreme Court, the Institute's board of trustees devised a proposed plan for mandatory continuing judicial education to parallel training requirements mandated for the state's attorneys.

Standards for participation in nationally-based training, which referred to preferences among eligible personnel, apparent educational value and program location and duration, were adopted for application beginning in fiscal year 1985. Similarly, ICJE instituted standards for the design and conduct of in-state programs.

Faced at the beginning of the year with the prospect of reducing program services due to an insufficient state appropriation, the Institute's trustees eliminated attendee mileage as an item reimbursable from ICJE. However, the Board maintained the long-term policy position that mileage expenses, along with sufficient staff support, adequate resources for program consultant services and better financial aid for nationally-based training are integral components of a comprehensive judicial education program that should be financially supported by the state.

Programs Sponsored by the Institute of Continuing Judicial Education
July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984

Program	Location	Date	Attendance
Summer Seminar for Superior Court Judges	Jekyll Island	July 25-27, 1983	112
Traffic Court Judges Sentencing Seminar	Macon	August 24, 1983	92
Independent Juvenile Court Probation Officers	Athens	September 14-16, 1983	66
Magistrates Seminar 20-Hour	Athens	September 14-16, 1983	146
Magistrates Seminar 20-Hour	Tifton	September 28-30, 1983	63
20th Annual Workshop for Georgia Juvenile Court Judges	Unicoi State Park	October 12-14, 1983	70
Fall Seminar for Georgia Superior Court Judges	Athens	October 26-28, 1983	115
Annual Seminar for Court Administrators	Athens	October 26-27, 1983	18
Fall Seminar for Clerks of Superior Court	Savannah	October 31 - November 4, 1983	140
Fall Seminar for Georgia Probate Court Judges	Savannah	November 2-4, 1983	110
Magistrates Seminar 20-Hour	Athens	January 4-6, 1984	54
Magistrates Seminar 40-Hour	Macon	January 16-20, 1984	127
New Judges Orientation	Athens	January 25-27, 1984	25
19th Institute for Clerks of Superior Court	Athens	March 26-28, 1984	185
26th Institute for Georgia Probate Court Judges	Athens	April 18-20, 1984	153
Spring Seminar for Independent Juvenile Court Probation Staff	Savannah	April 18-20, 1984	78
Spring Seminar for Juvenile Court Judges	Savannah	April 25-27, 1984	60
Spring Seminar for State Court Judges	Savannah	May 9-11, 1984	31
Magistrates Seminar 20-Hour	Tifton	May 16-18, 1984	63
Magistrates Seminar 20-Hour	Athens	May 23-25, 1984	92
Annual Seminar for Judicial Secretaries	Macon	May 30-June 1, 1984	73
Magistrates Seminar 40-Hour	Macon	June 11-15, 1984	96

Judicial Nominating Commission

To assist the governor in appointing well-qualified individuals to judicial office, the Judicial Nominating Commission solicits nominations and evaluates the qualifications of nominees for judicial positions.

Candidates for judicial office must fulfill specific qualifications before being considered for appointment. While the qualifications for different judicial positions vary, most candidates must meet a residency and age requirement. Judges of the appellate and superior courts must also exhibit active membership in the State Bar of Georgia for seven years, and state court judges must be admitted to practice law for at least five years. Qualifications for these and other judicial positions are specified either in the state constitution or in various statutes which created the respective courts.

The Judicial Nominating Commission held eight meetings in fiscal year 1984 to consider nominations for nine vacancies, including one on the Court of Appeals and four each on the superior and the state courts, and one new superior court judgeship. Since its creation by executive order in 1973, the Commission has acted on a total of 124 judgeships in regard to 1) nine Supreme Court vacancies, 2) 10 Court of Appeals vacancies, 3) 80 superior court judicial positions, 4) 23 state court judicial positions and 5) two municipal court judgeships.

Judicial Qualifications Commission

The Judicial Qualifications Commission conducts investigations and hearings in response to complaints of misconduct by Georgia judges and is responsible for issuing formal and informal opinions in response to inquires regarding appropriate judicial conduct. The Commission operates in accordance with rules adopted by the Supreme Court, which is authorized to review all proceedings.

After investigation of a complaint and a subsequent hearing or evaluation, the Commission may recommend to the Supreme Court the removal, discipline or retirement of a particular judge. The grounds upon which a judge may be disciplined or removed or retired from office, as stated in the Georgia Constitution, include 1) willful misconduct in office; 2) willful and persistent failure to perform duties; 3) habitual intemperance; 4) conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice which brings the judicial office into disrepute; or 5) disability seriously interfering with the performance of duties, which is, or is likely to become of a permanent character.

Complaints against judges must be based on one of the seven canons of the state's *Code of Judicial Conduct*. The *Code* was revised during the past year to incorporate substantive, editorial and gender language changes and became effective March 15, 1984.

During fiscal year 1984, the Commission held 12 regular meetings. Of the 18 cases pending from FY'83 and 112 new cases received during the year, 104 cases were concluded. Sixty-four complaints were dismissed on the ground that disciplinary action was not merited, and one complaint was dismissed because of failure to furnish sufficient information. The Commission resolved three cases through agreement and disposed of five cases on the basis of a private letter of admonition or reprimand. Five cases were closed when the five judges involved resigned while the respective complaints were still pending. Three cases were closed when the single judge involved was removed from office.

One formal proceeding was initiated during the year. Following completion of pre-hearing preparation and upon recommendation of counsel and review of the record, the Commission concluded that further action was not warranted and dismissed the complaint. An information report to such effect was filed with the Supreme Court. In response to another complaint, the Commission made recommendation and was granted approval for the removal of one judge.

During FY'84 the Commission issued five formal opinions and 15 informal opinions. Synopses of the formal opinions are presented below.

Opinion 52: *It would be inappropriate for a member of a firm which represents a municipality to serve as judge of the city or recorder's court of the municipality.*

Opinion 53: *For a part-time state court judge to hold a liquor license in his name for a client would detract from the dignity of his office and tend to interfere with the performance of his judicial duties and would therefore be improper.*

Opinion 54: *A judge is not disqualified from presiding in a matter solely because an attorney who has represented him in the past appears as counsel. If additional circumstances exist which, along with such prior representation, afford a reasonable basis for questioning his impartiality, then he should disqualify himself.*

Opinion 55: *An incumbent judge may at his own expense use his official stationery in a campaign for reelection, and he may refer to himself as judge and use a photograph of himself seated at his bench wearing his judicial robe in his advertising for reelection.*

Opinion 56: *Canon 7(B)(2) prohibits candidates, including incumbent judges, from soliciting contributions, but established campaign committees may solicit campaign funds on behalf of candidates from the general public as well as lawyers.*

The seven members of the Judicial Qualifications Commission include two judges of courts of record, three members of the State Bar of Georgia and two citizen members. As determined by the rules of the Commission, no member other than a judge may hold public or judicial office, and no member is permitted to hold office in any political party or organization.

Superior Courts Sentence Review Panel

Cases subject to review by the Superior Courts Sentence Review Panel are those sentences or consecutive sentences totaling five or more years set by a superior court judge without a jury. Exceptions to the Panel's jurisdiction include sentences set in misdemeanor cases, cases in which the death penalty has been imposed and murder cases where a life sentence has been imposed.

In reviewing sentences, the Panel seeks to determine whether excessive harshness has been imposed by the trial judge. Consideration is given to the nature of the crime for which the defendant was convicted and to the defendant's prior criminal record. While it is empowered to reduce sentences, the Panel may not increase sentences, reduce sentences to probation or suspend any sentence.

The Sentence Review Panel meets in two simultaneous panels, each composed of three superior court judges. Panel members are appointed by the president of the Council of Superior Court Judges to three-month terms. A supernumerary member is also appointed for each term and is authorized to substitute for any member who cannot attend a meeting or who is disqualified.

During the past year, 2,739 applications for review were submitted to the FY'84 panel. Of these, the Panel's clerk docketed 2,409 applications and ruled ineligible 330 applications for review. The Panel reviewed a total of 2,454 actual cases, including 45 cases docketed in prior fiscal years.

The cumulative reduction rate for cases reviewed since the Panel's creation (July 1, 1974) decreased in fiscal year 1984 to 6.18 percent. The reduction rate for the year — 4.85 percent – was the second lowest in the history of the panel.

Superior Courts Sentence Review Panel Caseload Summary

Fiscal Year 1984 Caseload

	Cases affirmed	Cases reduced	Cases reviewed
PANEL 37	648	29	677
PANEL 38	602	55	657
PANEL 39	571	31	602
PANEL 40	514	4	518
TOTAL	2,335	119	2,454

10-year Comparison of Cases Reviewed

	Cases affirmed	Cases reduced	% of cases reduced
FY 1975	159	16	9.14
FY 1976	703	39	5.26
FY 1977	955	80	7.73
FY 1978	1,123	67	5.63
FY 1979	1,134	101	8.18
FY 1980	1,228	90	6.83
FY 1981	1,542	145	8.60
FY 1982	1,846	136	6.86
FY 1983	2,359	88	3.60
FY 1984	2,335	119	4.85

Appendix 1
Judicial Personnel Changes: FY'84

Appointments

Court of Appeals

Judge Robert Benham for term 4/3/84 to 1/1/85.

Superior Courts

Appalachian Judicial Circuit
Judge Bobby C. Milam for term 7/1/83 to 12/31/84.

Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit
Judge Richard S. Gault for term 6/19/84 to 12/31/84.

Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit
Judge Joseph B. Tucker for term 8/1/83 to 1/1/85.

Ogeechee Judicial Circuit
Judge William J. Neville for term 4/11/84 to 1/1/85.

Southern Judicial Circuit
Judge H. Arthur McLane for term 7/29/83 to 1/1/85.

State Courts

Bryan County
Judge Ray C. Smith for term 3/21/84 to 1/1/85.

Chattooga County
Judge Thomas J. Espy, Jr. for term 7/29/83 to 12/31/84.

Cobb County (Division II)
Judge Mary Staley for term 3/14/84 to 1/1/87.
Judge Chris Landise for term 3/14/84 to 1/1/87.

Jeff Davis County
Judge E.M. Wilkes, III for term 6/19/84 to 12/31/84.

Lowndes County
Judge Richard M. Cowart for term 9/29/83 to 1/1/85.

Probate Court

Lamar County
Judge Marilyn Smith for term 3/2/84 to next special election.

Elections

Probate Courts

Glynn County
Judge Bernice M. Gilmer for term 8/30/83 to 1/1/85.

Towns County
Judge Truman Barrett for term 2/28/84 to 1/1/85.

Troup County
Judge L. Gwen Prescott for term 5/7/84 to 1/1/85.

White County
Judge Garrison Baker for term 9/20/83 to 1/1/85.

Analysis of Statewide Judicial Manpower (July 1, 1983 to June 30, 1984)

Court	Total number judgeships [1]	Judges beginning first terms: Method of selection: Elected	Appointed	New judgeship	Total	Judges leaving the bench: Reason for leaving: Resigned	Retired	Died	Total [2]
Supreme Court	7	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0
Court of Appeals	9	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	1
Superior Courts	127 [3]	-	4	1	5	-	2	1	3
State Courts (Full and part-time)	79	-	2	4	6	2	-	2	4
Juvenile Courts (Full and part-time)	50	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	0
Probate Courts	159	4	1	-	5	-	2	2	4

[1] As of June 30, 1984.

[2] Total number of judges leaving the bench does not match total number of new judges in some instances because of new appointments or vacancies which existed at the end of the fiscal year.

[3] Although 127 superior court judgeships had been allocated by the end of the year, 123 had been filled.

Appendix 2
Judicial Agencies Directory

Board of Court Reporting

Judge Ben J. Miller
Chairperson
Superior Courts
Griffin Judicial Circuit
Thomaston

Lounell B. Day [1]
Vice chairperson
Official court reporter
Tifton

Robert M. Brinson
Attorney
Rome

James Cox
Attorney
Atlanta

Danny Sayer
Court reporter
Douglas

Philip G. Vincent
Official court reporter
Moultrie

Hazel S. Williams
Official court reporter
Dalton

Robert L. Doss, Jr.
Secretary
Administrative Office of the Courts
Atlanta

[1] Ms. Day served as acting chairperson from 9/24/83 to 11/19/83.

Council of Juvenile Court Judges

Judge Othniel W. McGehee
President
Bibb County
Macon

Judge Martha K. Glaze
Immediate past president
Clayton County
Jonesboro

Judge Virgil Costley, Jr.
President-elect
Newton County
Covington

Judge David J. Turner, Jr.
Vice president
Meriwether County
Manchester

Judge Marvin W. Sorrells
Secretary
Walton County
Monroe

Judge Clinton O. Pearson
Treasurer
Glynn County
Brunswick

Georgia Magistrate Courts Training Council

Judge Nick J. Lazaros
Chairman
Houston County
Warner Robins

Judge E. Hulyn Smith [2]
Chairman
Lowndes County
Valdosta

Judge George W. Eisel, III
Vice chairman
Hancock County
Sparta

Judge J. Davis Roberts
Vice chairman
Clayton County
Jonesboro

Judge L. Carroll Blankenship [2]
Bulloch County
Statesboro

Judge Leonard Danley
Douglas County
Winston

Judge Eleanor R. Dotson
Charlton County
Folkston

Judge LaVerne C. Ogletree [3]
Greene County
Greensboro

Robert L. Doss, Jr.
Ex officio secretary
Administrative Office of the Courts
Atlanta

[2] Judges Smith and Blankenship were appointed to replace Judges Lazaros and Danley on 1/1/84. Judge Smith was elected chairman and Judge Roberts was elected vice chairman on 1/16/84.

[3] Judge Ogletree replaced Judge Dotson who resigned from the Council on 12/30/83.

Institute of Continuing Judicial Education

Judge Willis B. Hunt, Jr.
Chairman
Superior Court
Houston Judicial Circuit
Perry

Dean J. Ralph Beaird
Vice chairman
University of Georgia School of Law
Athens

Judge Andrew J. Whalen, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer
Superior Courts
Griffin Judicial Circuit
Griffin

A. Gus Cleveland
Attorney
Atlanta

Judge Frank M. Eldridge
Superior Court
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Judge Martha K. Glaze
Juvenile Court of Clayton County
Jonesboro

Judge W. Marion Guess, Jr.
Probate Court of DeKalb County
Decatur

Dean Thomas Morgan
Emory University School of Law
Atlanta

Presiding Judge J. Kelley Quillian
Court of Appeals of Georgia
Atlanta

Judge H. Jack Short
State Court of Colquitt County
Moultrie

Justice George T. Smith
Supreme Court of Georgia
Atlanta

J. Douglas Stewart
Attorney
Gainesville

Dean Karl P. Warden
Mercer University School of Law
Macon

Judicial Administrative District Personnel

District 1

Judge A. Bienn Taylor, Jr.
Administrative Judge
Brunswick Judicial Circuit
Brunswick

Daniel E. Deloach, Jr.
Administrative Assistant
Savannah

Circuits: Atlantic, Brunswick, Eastern, Ogeechee, Waycross

District 2

Judge W. J. Forehand
Administrative Judge
Tifton Judicial Circuit
Tifton

Roger E. Douglas
Administrative Assistant
Valdosta

Circuits: Alapaha, Dougherty, Pataula, South Georgia, Southern, Tifton

District 3

Senior Judge Hal Bell
Administrative Judge
Macon Judicial Circuit
Macon

David L. Ratley
Administrative Assistant
Macon

Circuits: Chattahoochee, Houston, Macon, Southwestern

District 4

Judge Curtis V. Tillman
Administrative Judge
Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit
Decatur

Richard F. Jugar
Administrative Assistant
Decatur

Circuits: Rockdale, Stone Mountain

District 5

Judge Osgood O. Williams
Administrative Judge
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

John T. Shope
Administrative Assistant
Atlanta

Circuit: Atlanta

District 6

Judge Andrew J. Whalen, Jr.
Administrative Judge
Griffin Judicial Circuit
Griffin

Fred R. Roney
Administrative Assistant
Griffin

Circuits: Clayton, Coweta, Flint, Griffin

District 7

Judge Jere F. White
Administrative Judge
Cherokee Judicial Circuit
Cartersville

William L. Martin, III
Administrative Assistant
Cartersville

Circuits: Cherokee, Cobb, Douglas, Lookout Mountain, Rome, Tallapoosa

District 8

Judge Walter C. McMillan, Jr.
Administrative Judge
Middle Judicial Circuit
Sandersville

Jack L. Bean
Administrative Assistant
Lyons

Circuits: Cordele, Dublin, Middle, Ocmulgee, Oconee

District 9

Judge James E. Palmour, III
Administrative Judge
Northeastern Judicial Circuit
Gainesville

Benjamin R. Forrester
Administrative Assistant
Gainesville

Circuits: Appalachian, Blue Ridge, Conasauga, Gwinnett, Mountain, Northeastern

District 10

Judge William M. Fleming, Jr.
Administrative Judge
Augusta Judicial Circuit
Augusta

L. Tom Gunnels, Jr.
Administrative Assistant
Augusta

Circuits: Alcovy, Augusta, Northern, Piedmont, Toombs, Western

Judicial Council of Georgia

Chief Justice Harold N. Hill, Jr. 4
Chairman
Supreme Court
Atlanta

Judge Andrew J. Whalen, Jr. 5
Chairman
Superior Courts
Griffin Judicial Circuit
Griffin

Justice Thomas O. Marshall 6
Vice chairman
Supreme Court
Atlanta

Judge Robert R. Cook 7
Vice chairman
Probate Court of Chatham County
Savannah

Judge Jere F. White 5
Secretary-Treasurer
Superior Courts
Cherokee Judicial Circuit
Cartersville

Judge Hal Bell
Administrative Judge
Third District
Macon

Judge A. W. Birdsong, Jr. 4
Court of Appeals
Atlanta

Judge Tom Cauthorn 5
State Court of Cobb County
Marietta

Judge Virgil Costley, Jr. 4
President-elect
Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Covington

Woodson Daniel 7
Clerk, Pulaski County
Hawkinsville

Judge George W. Eisel, III 8
President
Council of Magistrate Court Judges
Sparta

Judge James E. Findley 4
President
Council of Superior Court Judges
Reidsville

Judge William M. Fleming, Jr. 4
Administrative Judge
Tenth District
Augusta

Judge W. J. Forehand 4
Administrative Judge
Second District
Tifton

Judge Joel J. Fryer 7
Superior Court
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Judge Joseph J. Gaines 7
Superior Courts
Western Judicial Circuit
Athens

Judge Grace D. Garland 4
President-elect
Courts of Limited Jurisdiction, Inc.
Thomasville

Judge George W. Harris 8
President-elect
Council of Magistrate Court Judges
Fort Valley

Judge George A. Horkan, Jr. 7
Superior Courts
Southern Judicial Circuit
Moultrie

Judge Francis Houston 5
State Court of Pierce County
Blackshear

Judge Willis B. Hunt, Jr. 7
Superior Court
Houston Judicial Circuit
Perry

Judge Harry Johnson, Jr. 5
Probate Court of Floyd County
Rome

Judge Nick J. Lazaros 7
Chief Magistrate, Houston County
Warner Robins

Judge Juanita D. Marsh 7
City Court of College Park
College Park

Judge Othniel W. McGehee 4
President
Council of Juvenile Court Judges
Macon

Judge Walter C. McMillan, Jr. 4
Administrative Judge
Eighth District
Sandersville

Chief Judge William L. McMurray, Jr. 9
Court of Appeals
Atlanta

Judge Richard Neville 4
President-elect
Council of Superior Court Judges
Cumming

Judge James E. Palmour, III 4
Administrative Judge
Ninth District
Gainesville

Judge Jon Payne 7
Probate Court of Chattooga County
Summerville

Judge Grady C. Pittard, Jr. 7
State Court of Clarke County
Athens

Judge J. Kelley Quillian 7
Court of Appeals
Atlanta

Bob Reinhardt 7
Past president
State Bar of Georgia
Tifton

Chief Judge Arnold Shulman 4
Court of Appeals
Atlanta

Judge J. Ben Spear, Jr. 4
President
Council of Probate Court Judges
Forsyth

J. Douglas Stewart 7
Immediate past president
State Bar of Georgia
Gainesville

Judge A. Blenn Taylor, Jr. 4
Administrative Judge
First District
Brunswick

Judge Coy H. Temples [7]
Superior Courts
Conasauga Judicial Circuit
Dalton

Judge Hugh P. Thompson [7]
Superior Court
Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit
Eatonton

Judge J. Leon Thompson [4]
President
Georgia Courts of Limited Jurisdiction, Inc.
Union City

Judge Curtis V. Tillman [5]
Superior Court
Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit
Decatur

Judge Edward D. Wheeler [7]
Juvenile Court of DeKalb County
Decatur

Judge Osgood O. Williams [4]
Administrative Judge
Fifth District
Atlanta

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[4]These judges became members upon the Council's restructuring on 8/5/83.

[5]These judges remained on the Council following the restructuring, but served in a different capacity.

[6]Justice Marshall replaced Judge Cook as vice chairman on 8/5/83.

[7]These members left the Council on 8/5/83.

[8]Judges Eisel and Harris replaced Judges Garland and J. Leon Thompson upon the formation of the Council of Magistrate Court Judges in 1983.

[9]Judge McMurray replaced Judge Shulman when he succeeded Judge Shulman as chief judge on 1/1/84.

Judicial Nominating Commission

A. G. Cleveland, Jr.
Chairman
Atlanta

George W. Felker, III
Monroe

Edward C. Harris [10]
Atlanta

Jane Guthman Kahn
Savannah

Judge Romae T. Powell [10]
Juvenile Court of Fulton County
Atlanta

Ralph O. Walton, Jr. [11]
Hamilton

Richard Y. Bradley
President
State Bar of Georgia
Columbus

Duross Fitzpatrick
President-elect
State Bar of Georgia
Cochran

Frank Love, Jr.
Immediate Past President
State Bar of Georgia
Atlanta

J. Douglas Stewart [12]
Past president
State Bar of Georgia
Gainesville

Richard T. deMayo [12]
Immediate past president
Younger Lawyers Section
State Bar of Georgia
Atlanta

Jule W. Felton, Jr. [13]
President-elect
State Bar of Georgia
Atlanta

Walter H. Bush, Jr. [13]
Immediate past president
Younger Lawyers Section
State Bar of Georgia
Atlanta

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[10]Judge Powell replaced Mr. Harris on the Commission in September, 1983.

[11]Mr. Walton resigned in April, 1984.

[12]Mr. Stewart and Mr. deMayo left the Commission in June, 1984, upon the election of new officers of the State Bar. Mr. Fitzpatrick became president, Mr. Bradley became immediate past president and Mr. Love became past president

[13]Mr. Felton and Mr. Bush joined the Commission in June, 1984.

Judicial Qualifications Commission

H. Holcombe Perry, Jr.
Chairman
Albany

Mrs. Laura Dorsey Rains
Vice chairman
Atlanta

Harry S. Baxter [14]
Atlanta

Dr. Barbara L. Carter [15]
Atlanta

Robert H. Jordan [16]
Talbotton

Judge Walter C. McMillan, Jr.
Superior Courts
Middle Judicial Circuit
Sandersville

Judge J. Taylor Phillips [17]
State Court of Bibb County
Macon

Will Ed Smith
Eastman

Ed Voyles
Marietta

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[14]Mr. Baxter replaced Mr. Perry as chairman on 1/27/84.

[15]Dr. Carter was named to succeed Ms. Rains.

[16]Former Chief Justice Jordan was selected by the State Bar to succeed Mr. Perry on the Commission.

[17]Judge Phillips became vice chairman on 1/27/84.

Superior Courts Sentence Review Panel

Administrative Board

Judge Luther Alverson
Chairman
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Judge James Barrow
Western Judicial Circuit
Athens

Judge Jere F. White
Cherokee Judicial Circuit
Cartersville

Panel 37/1

Judge Joe C. Crumbley
Chairman
Clayton Judicial Circuit
Jonesboro

Judge K. Dawson Jackson
Gwinnett Judicial Circuit
Lawrenceville

Judge W.D. Knight
Alapaha Judicial Circuit
Nashville

Panel 37/2

Judge William M. Towson
Chairman
Dublin Judicial Circuit
Dublin

Judge P. Harris Hines
Cobb Judicial Circuit
Marietta

Judge Bernard J. Mulherin
Augusta Judicial Circuit
Augusta

Supernumerary for both panels

Judge William R. Killian
Brunswick Judicial Circuit
Brunswick

Panel 38/1

Judge James L. Brooks
Chairman
Piedmont Judicial Circuit
Jefferson

Judge Stephen E. Boswell
Clayton Judicial Circuit
Jonesboro

Judge William T. Boyett
Conasauga Judicial Circuit
Dalton

Panel 38/2

Judge Frank M. Eldridge
Chairman
Atlanta Judicial Circuit
Atlanta

Judge David L. Cavender
Atlantic Judicial Circuit
Hinesville

Judge Willard H. Chason
South Georgia Judicial Circuit
Cairo

Supernumerary for both panels

Judge Daniel M. Coursey, Jr.
Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit
Decatur

Panel 39/1

Judge John R. Harvey
Chairman
Atlantic Judicial Circuit
Pembroke

Judge G. Bryant Culpepper
Macon Judicial Circuit
Macon

Judge William H. Craig
Flint Judicial Circuit
McDonough

Panel 39/2

Judge Keegan Federal, Jr.
Chairman
Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit
Decatur

Judge John A. Frazier, Jr.
Rome Judicial Circuit
Rome

Judge Eugene H. Gadsden
Eastern Judicial Circuit
Savannah

Supernumerary for both panels

Judge Arthur W. Fudger
Tallapoosa Judicial Circuit
Buchanan

Panel 40/1

Judge Kenneth B. Followill
Chairman
Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit
Columbus

Judge James A. Henderson
Gwinnett Judicial Circuit
Lawrenceville

Judge Joseph B. Newton
Waycross Judicial Circuit
Waycross

Panel 40/2

Judge Roy M. Lilly
Chairman
Southern Judicial Circuit
Thomasville

Judge Robert J. James
Douglas Judicial Circuit
Douglasville

Judge Phillip Sheffield
Pataula Judicial Circuit
Blakely

Supernumerary for both panels

Judge Joseph B. Tucker
Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit
Ringgold